Reel K-10-B.

Admiralty War Diaries

9-4-41 to 30-6-41, cont'd

from Reel K-9-B.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.5.1941.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

1630 — One submarine submerged 184° 150 miles from Munker Rock (Faeroes) (LORD MIDDLETON to Scapa W/T 1630/11)
Cancel my 1630. Have investigated and attacked contact. Consider negative U-Boat. Am proceeding. (LORD MIDDLETON 1700B/11 to S.O.NT.N.P.)

1520 — 52.33 N., 12.39 W., 295° Valencia 100'. Catalina A/C sighted line of foam and subsequently a periscope and dropped 2 d/c's. (D.S. 612, 12/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

M.T.B. Sweep

One unit of M.T.B's (3) carried out an offensive patrol last night between Zeebrugge and Hook of Holland. No enemy ships were sighted.

Morale of Dutch Tugs.

Tugs THAMES and ZWARTE ZEE refused to sail to bring in damaged ships today without escort. Morale is reported to have been deteriorating for some time and as it is unlikely an escort will be available every time tugs go to sea N.O. i/c Iceland urges that their crews be relieved by British crews as neither tug is likely to be of any further use with Dutch crews.

British Air Operations

69 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Hamburg and 65 Bremen industrial and shipbuilding cenres last night. Minor attacks were made on docks at Dieppe and Bremerhaven, Rotterdam oil storage, Emden, Kiel and other naval objectives.

3 Blenheims of Coastal Command attacked the E-Boat base at Ijmuiden last night.

Enemy Air Operations

SS FOWBERY TOWER was bombed and sunk off the Humber in the early hours of this morning.

Convoy F.N. 65 was bombed twice or three times in the early hours of this morning, but no damage resulted.

/Convoy O.B.M322..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Convoy O.BM 322 was bombed in the early hours and SS NOREG was slightly damaged by incendiary.

QUEEN EAGLE was apparently attacked in the early hours of this morning, near Yantlet North Buoy (Thames Estuary).

During an attack on the Tyne SS RICHARD DE LARRINAGA was bombed and damaged at 0215 today while joining convoy E.C. 18.

It is reported that the Irish Free State SS DEGERIN was machine gunned and bombed at 0043 today near the Tuscar. No damage occurred.

SS ST. PATRICK reported being bombed at 2335 G.M.T. near the South Tuskar.

Irish Free State SS MENARA reported being bombed unsuccessfully at 0230 between Skoner Island and Bishop Rock, by 2 Heinkels.

British overseas Flying Boat MAIA was bombed and sunk in Poole Harbour at 0130 today. The attacking aircraft was shot down subsequently.

Attacks on Yeovilton — Damage was caused at Yeovilton R.N.Air Station in the early hours of this morning.

Pembroke Dock. — There was an air attack on Pembroke Dock last night. Two land mines fell in the Naval Dockyard and caused damage and casualties.

/Harwich.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Harwich Area — There was considerable enemy air activity in Harwich area last night. Parkeston Quay was attacked and damage was caused to BEEHIVE (Base Ship)

St. Eval — Damage and several casualties were caused at St. Eval from 0018 to 0443. The aerodrome is unserviceable.

Yarmouth — No Naval damage was caused as the result of attack on Yarmouth last night, but the water supply is practically out of commission.

Mining

Four Naval aircraft laid mines off Cherbourg this evening.

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night off the Tyne and Thames Estuaries and in the Bristol Channel.

Minelaying was suspected in the early hours of this morning off Yarmouth and Lowestoft Roads.

Port Ellen (Milford Haven) was closed from 0201 to 1315. Belfast is open except between 2300 and 0500 daily. The Tyne was closed from 0155 to 0915 the Humber was reported safe for shipping movements at 0919B.

SS FLINT is reported sunk today by explosion off Dingle Oil Jetty (presumably Liverpool)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Malta

V.A. Malta today outlined his proposals for further convoy movements whilst the Mediterranean Fleet is primarily engaged with Central Mediterranean operations. He considers it imperative to press on with the building up of stocks to meet the ever increasing requirements of aviation spirit.

Malta was attacked for 5½ hours last night by about 30 aircraft, the main target being Luqa Aerodrome, where damage was caused. No damage was caused in the Dockyard.

Appointments

V.A. Pridham-Wippell was today appointed V.A. 1st B.S. and 2nd i/c Med. Fleet with flag in QUEEN ELIZABETH; R-A Rawlings R.A.C. 7th C.S. with flag in ORION, R-)A Glennie R-A (D) Med. Fleet

Cruiser Organisation.

ORION, AJAX and PERTH form the 7th C.S. NAIAD, PHOEBE, GLOUCESTER and FIJI form the 15th C.S.

Swordfish attack on convoy

4 Swordfish were despatched this evening to attack a southbound convoy of 7 merchant ships sighted by A/C.R/C The Swordfish attacked with torpedoes at 2030 in 34° 1' N 12° 39' E.
One destroyer and one merchant ship are believed to have been hit. Surprise was achieved and there was no opposition.

Libya

LADYBIRD was sunk by air attack in Mersa Tobruk Harbour at 1505 today.

Nine Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour and 3 attacked ships off the port last night.

Suez Canal

A further section of the Canal has been opened between Kantara and Tireh.

/Operation M.D. 4.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation M.D. 4.

The Fleet returned to Alexandria this morning. C. in C. Med. reports that the success of the operation was largely attributable to unprecedented weather conditions.
The enemy losses in the air were 9 certain and one damaged. Of the 7 British aircraft lost 5 were due to forced landings failing to find the carrier, or other accident.

Greece

AUCKLAND (with the Greek C.N.S.), VOYAGER and VAMPIRE, all with troops, arrived at Alexandria this morning.

Crete

SS RAWNSLEY (bombed and damaged /5) was bombed and sunk last night on the south coast of Crete.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.5.41.
Monday.

Secret and Confidential matter.

The instructions laid down in Form U2D, Art 80b, regarding the disposal from H.M. Ships of secret and confidential matter in an emergency are being generally observed.
There is evidence, however, that similar precautions are not always taken in the case of combined operations.
Where there is any risk of personnel or occupied buildings being captured the secret and confidential matter carried must be reduced to an absolute minimum compatible with the satisfactory discharge of the operation.
(D.N.I. 1912B/12. "A" Mge., Home & Abroad 69A.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland Shortage of Ships.

Request I may be informed when NORDKAPP may be expected to return. With SKYRACK out of action and BULL and HONNINGSVAAG required for visit to Jan Mayen and possibly East-Coast of Greenland I am very short of ships for round Iceland (c) Escorts and attending Coast watchers.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1301/12.)

Conversion of fishing vessels.

Cancel A.M. 1339/7/11/40. (D.M.S.1428B/12. to C's in C. Home Ports.)

Morale of Dutch Tugs' crews.

Both THAMES and ZWARTE ZEE refusal to sail without escort today. THAMES was sent with VERITY and ZWARTE ZEE with ANGLE. VERITY reports by W/T THAMES requested her to remain with him. Have instructed VERITY to proceed in execution of previous orders. Liaison officer R.A.A. unit reports morale believed to have been getting worse for some time and THAMES worse still. I have seen master ZWARTE ZEE and explained this is not dangerous area, but doubt if either tug will tow damaged ships back without escort. Most unlikely escort ship available every time tugs go to sea. Strongly urge crews be relieved by British crews as neither tug is likely to be any further use present crew.
(N.O. i/c Iceland 2113/12.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.5.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Yarmouth
A.A.Defence.

A.156 12/5. Following is repetition of my A.263 10/5. Request new gun defended area of Yarmouth - Lowestoft be included in terms of S.D. 158 part one para.5A, sub para 3. This will enable guns when deployed to open unseen fire as at Harwich after permission to do so has been granted by group concerned. Early amendment to document quoted is requested.
(H.Q.F.C. 0100/12 to Adty.)

Movements.

AURORA.

Your 1517/7. Request you sail AURORA for Rosyth. N.O.i/c Tyne pass to AURORA.
(C. in C. H.F. 1037B/12, to N.O.i/c Tyne.)

BERWICK.

Your 1247B/11. Request BERWICK and escort may adjust arrival Beamer Rock (Firth of Forth) to 1915/16th for basining. Suggest she should anchor at Scapa p.m./15th and leave as late as possible a.m./16th to conform to amended time of arrival carry out southern part of east coast passage in daylight and allow sufficient time for M/S Operations in Firth of Forth. Speed west of May Island should not exceed 9 knots.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1130/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
Destroyer escort from Portsmouth is not required to proceed beyond Smalls.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange suitable air protection from daylight/14.
3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide A/A escort from Scapa to Rosyth.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1944B/12.)
BERWICK sailed E.T.A. Scapa 0730/15 escort WIVERN, WILD SWAN, BERKELEY BLENCATHRA.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2130/12.)

/DISCOVERY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

DISCOVERY II. To lay and tend buoys as far north as Farne Is. Arrangements. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter protection. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to take over surface escort at Flamborough Head. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1656/12.)

FURIOUS, LONDON, ANSON. Sailed FURIOUS, LONDON, ANSON TARTAR, MASHONA, and LEGION codeword GAUZE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1037B/11. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2037B/12.)

Operations.

My 2135/11 returned. 0800B/12.
+ Re departure of Torpedo Boats 31, 32, 34.

M.T.B. Sweep. M.T.B. 32 reports Your 1530/11. Sweep carried out in the West Pit and Schoonweld - no ship sighted. No buoy sighted. Visibility extreme. (C. in C. Nore 1500B/12.)

TIGRIS Operation "Explore". Cancel my 1029B/12. (A) TUNA is not considered fit for patrol in her present state. (B) TIGRIS is to be sailed P.M./12 to Falmouth to take over duties of TUNA in connection with Operation Explore and thence to patrol in her place. TUNA is to return to Holy Loch after arrival of TIGRIS and on completion of repairs. (F.O.(S) 1149B/12.)

British Air Operations.

Patrols. Patrols BERT and STAB now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 0740/12.)

A/C's flying low. S.O.T.L.D.F. reports At 2145/11 two aircraft with British markings possibly Hurricanes Exhibiting navigation lights flying about 100 feet above the water passed within ½ mile of ROYAL EAGLE near B2 Buoy.

In view.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations Contd.

A/C's flying low. Contd.

In view of recent attacks by low flying enemy aircraft submit R.A.F. may be asked to caution their fighter pilots not to fly low over the water close to British ship if such action can be avoided 1153/12 ends.
Request this matter may be taken up with Air Ministry and Fighter Command.
(C. in C. Nore 1451B/12 to Adty.)

Attacks on Hamburg, Bremen etc.

Night 11/12th May. Details.
(H.Q.B.C. THI 1612/12.)

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks on F.N.65.

One enemy aircraft bombing convoy Pilot
(VORTIGERN 0101/12.)
My 0101. 11 bombs no hits.
(VORTIGERN 0112B/12.)
Further attack no hits.
(VICEROY 0243/12, 0254/12.)

Yeovilton.

Low level diving attack approx. 0100, one aircraft, East West runways unserviceable, damage by bombs.
(Yeovilton 03118/12, 10378/12, 14558/12.)

Attack on O.B.M.322.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy SUSIE.
My position 39° 8' N., 109° (?) 45' E.
VICEROY 0318/12.)
Incendiary caused slight damage in NORNE.
(VICEROY 0400/12.)

S.S. POWBERRY TOWER sunk.

Humber, departure Tug IRISHMAN at 0515/12 to assist s.s. POWBERRY TOWER damaged by enemy bombing near Humber L.V.
(F.O. Humber 0535/12.)
POWBERRY TOWER reported sunk 325° 1 mile Humber L/V 36 survivors.
(F.O. Humber 0540B/12.)

/S.S. RICHARD DE...

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations Contd.

S.S.RICHARD DE LARRINAGA. S.S.RICHARD DE LARRINAGA joining convoy E.C.18 bombed by enemy aircraft 4 cables North of SOR buoy at 0215/12. Ship now in tow of MONA'S ISLE and Rescue Tug SEA GIANT has been sent to take over. MONA'S ISLE has 32 survivors on board which includes 3 casualties. Seven of crew assisted by party from MONA'S ISLE remaining on board. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0540/12.)

St. Eval Attacked. 0018 to 0443 12/5 (C) several casualties some fatal. Aerodrome U/S and aircraft serviceability reduced (F) Estimated 80+ E/A carried out 2 sustained attacks. Damage to aircraft not yet ascertained. Hangers damaged, Officers' quarters largely destroyed. Numerous other huts destroyed. Fires now under control. (St. Eval 0620/12.)

MUNICK AND NELLIE. H.M.D. MUNICK AND NELLIE attacked by enemy aircraft 2155/11. Slight damage 1 casualty. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1115B/12.)

Jan Mayen. Secret. German aircraft flew low over Jan Mayen Islands morning/10 and was engaged by Norwegian garrison who have asked for reinforcements from my Norwegian platoon expedient. F.O.I.C. has (? related) more fully to Admiralty.
(C.O.C. Iceland (C) Force 1121/12.)

night
QUEEN EAGLE attacked. E.A.activity/11/12th May in Shoeburyness Sheppey Area was confined to one aircraft which was not seen but made three apparent attacks on QUEEN EAGLE (whose outline resembles a Merchant ship) near Yantlet North buoy. A stick of 4 bombs was dropped on each run and all bombs exploded on surface, with an exceptionally violent detonation. Little under water concussion was felt. Correct recognition lights were seen in vicinity some two minutes after explosion. There was a number of plots in the outer Estuary between 2345 and 0525 but planes were high and no minelaying is suspected. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1137/12.)

/Pembroke.....

War Diary. 12.5.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations. Contd.

Pembroke Dock attacked.	Enemy air raid on Pembroke Dock last night 2 land mines dropped in Naval dockyard area. Damage. No damage to oiltank. Casualties. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1205/12.)
Yarmouth bombed.	Damage enemy action Great Yarmouth night 11 - 12 May. No actual damage to Admiralty property, but town water supply practically out of commission estimate two days before satisfactory emergency measures in hand. (C.E.Yarmouth 1500B/12.)
Attack on Parkestone Quay.	During considerable R.A. activity Harwich area night 11/12th A/C made high level dive bombing attacks presumably on Parkestone quay approx., 6 bombs falling in Harbour between quay and Felixstowe Dock and two between quay and Harwich. One H.E. fell BEEHIVE partially wrecking torpedo explosive magazine. No serious damage to contents no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1900B/12.)
Smoke Screen in Clyde area.	Your 12028/7/5 and my 1809/9 thorough investigation has been completed and it is reasonable to presume that the smoke screen together with STARFISH played an important part in preventing serious damage to the R.O.F. Bishopton and the oil tanks at old Kilpatrick during the Clyde area raids on 5/6th and 6/7th May. It is suggested as a result of studying the bomb plots that the following additional smoke protection should be provided immediately. The River Cart for say 1 and a half miles and the River Leven for its total distance. The hits scored on John Brown's yard and the Rothesay Dock and Messrs. Denny Bros., DUMBARTON would appear to have been aided by the rivers mentioned above both of which were clear of the smoke screen on the night on 5th 6th and 7th of May. From the observer Corps Plots of raids on this area, experience shows that Loch Lomond is used by enemy as a rendezvous. If the River Leven was obscured by smoke a valuable leading mark to the Clyde would be eliminated.

/By obscuring.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12. 5. 41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations Contd.

Smoke Screen in Clyde area.Contd.	By obscuring the River Cart with smoke an important leading mark John Brown Rothesay Dock Abbotsinch and Renfrew Aerodrome and the City of Paisley would be eliminated. I consider it desirable that defence by smoke should be fully developed in this district as part of Unified Defence plan including STARFISH, A.A. Guns etc. Report and recommendations. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1956/12, 2346/12.)

Mining.

Tyne.	Tyne closed due to suspected enemy mine-laying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0155/12.) Port is now open. (F.O.i/c Tyne 0915/12.)
Port Ellen.	Port Ellen is closed owing to mines dropped by aircraft. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0201/12.) + My 0201/12 - port is open subject to local restrictions. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1315/12.)
Yarmouth and Lowestoft Roads.	Suspected mine laying vicinity Yarmouth and Lowestoft Roads in early hours of this morning. (N.O.i/c Gt. Yarmouth 08058/12.)
Humber.	My 1701B/9. It is now safe for shipping movements. (F.O. Humber 0919B/12.)
Sheerness.	One S.A. mine detonated as follows:- (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0946/12.)
Dumpton. Description South Falls etc.	Routine sweeping to 0800/12. Q.Z.S.238. C.1 to No. 10 buoy and Q.Z.S. 191 Dumpton to South Falls buoy nothing found. (V.A. Dover 1043B/12.)

/Dartmouth.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.5.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Dartmouth.	Cancel my 2251/2. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1409/12.)
Belfast.	The Port of Belfast is open except between 2300 and 0500 daily. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1630/12.)
Operation S.N.9B.	My 1452/11 (N.T. in W.D.) all times must be postponed 22 hours MENESTHEUS engine defects. (R.A.(M) 1746/12.) Your 1452/11+and 1746/12. A/S Air Escort arranged as follows:- (C. in C. Rosyth 1930/12 to R.A.(M). My 1452/11. Item (d) one add ST.MARY's item (d) two for four destroyers read three destroyers. (R.A.M.L. 1946/11.)
Mine oof Skokholm.	S.S. SAINT EUNAN reports setting up one mine 40 yards from ship in position three miles West of Skokholm Island at 2330/6. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1757/12.)
Clyde.	Minesweeping Report River Clyde. No change. No further report will be made until there is a fresh development.. Air Raid Damage. Nothing further to report. (F.O.i/c Glasgow 2045/12.)

MOST SECRET.

12.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy.	At 0030 1 Convoy 6 M.V's 2 Escort vessels. Position 53° 44' N. 6° 42' E. Course 080° Speed 8 knots. (A/C 0045/12).
S.S. EMPIRE STEELHEAD.	QQQQ Disguised Merchant raider46R35 25R25W EMPIRE STEEL HEAD being closed by unknown vessel. (Lands End 1259/12). QQQQ de GCK. Cancel my 1258/12 EMPIRE STEELHEAD 1334 G.M.T./12. (Valentia Radio 1335/12 de GKU).
Brest.	Visual R/C at 0920B/12 shows both Battlecruisers present in same positions. (D.D.I.C. 1259B/12). Brest 2015/12. Visual R/C shows both battlecruisers in same positions. (D.D.I.C. 2146B/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S. 8B. Your 0342/9. Confirm that F.10 can be ready but F.19 cannot be ready before end of month. Sea speed of F.10 is 6½ knots. (D.S.T.O. Liverpool, 1300/12 to D. of S.T). Provided no unforeseen delay occurs in repairs to destroyers at Clyde, 6 destroyers can be provided in accordance with your 2256/10. Cairo will provide A/A escort. (C. in C. W.A. 1622B/12 to Admty.). My 2256B/10. S.S. ABOSSO, speed 14½ knots, will be ready to leave Liverpool for Freetown about 18/5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her in convoy W.S. 8 (H) and arrange for her to leave Liverpool with CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. (D.O.D.(H) 1714B/12 to C. in C. W.A).

Positions. A.M. 0001/1. Sec. III para 4 and N.C.S.I. 167. Amendment of positions. (D.O.D. 1523B/12) See Summaries Folder.
In future all signals amending A.M. 0001/1/5 will be numbered. Amending signals and to be numbered as follows. (D.T.D, 1633B/12) See Summaries Folder.

H.G. 59. Congratulations on bringing convoy HG 59 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1528/12 to Vice-Adm. Dawson)
Regret congratulatory message re H.G. 59 was sent to you in error. (C. in C. W.A. to Vice-Adm. Dawson 1451/15).

H.X. 122. Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy HX 122. (C. in C. W.A. 1845/12 to Vice Adm. P.E. Parker.) 15 British and Allied & 2 neutral ships. Cargoes (see D.S. 616 13/5)

S.C. 29. Has arrived safely. Included 21 British 1 neutral and 19 allied ships. Commodore Rear-Adm. B.W. Barrow. Cargoes (D.S. 616) See also 1327/13.

/BRITANNIC.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (contd).

BRITANNIC. SOUTHERN PRINCE D.S. 4.	S.S. BRITANNIC, speed 18 knots, will be ready to leave Clyde on 21/5 with 2700 service personnel for Halifax. In accordance with Admty. 1151B/11 SOUTHERN PRINCE, speed 15 knots, will be ready to leave Port Z.A. for America on 21/5. BRITANNIC and SOUTHERN PRINCE will sail to Iceland in company with D.S. 4, leaves Clyde on 21/5. They will subsequently sail to meet battleship escort of H.X. 123. R.A. (M) requested to provide 2 additional destroyers for D.S. 4 (making four in all). C. in C. H.F. requested to provide cruiser escort from Butt of Lewis until battleship escort is met. (A.C.N.S (H) 1905B/12 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

S.S. FLIMSTONE. Refloated and entered Tees River.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1840/12).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

German Unit	At 2315 G.M.T. German Naval Unit bearings 324 class 3. (F.O.C.N.A. 0153A/12 to N.A. Station)
MARTIN PECHEUR	My 1917B/11. Boats with armed guard on board have arrived Gibraltar. Return to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0717A/12 to VELOX) My 0717A/12 and 1917B/11. All members of armed guard ex French MARTIN PECHEUR arrived Gibraltar safely. Ship was not scuttled but sank as result of fire which apparently was accidental. French crew have landed in Spain or Portugal. (F.O.C.N.A. 1216B/12 to Admty.)
OSIRIS O.G. 63 H.G. 63	Request date of sailing of OSIRIS from U.K. Could she escort O.G. 63? Escort for H.G. 63 might be provided by TRUANT or PANDORA in which case a Dutch Sub. could be made available to patrol in Mediterranean. Admty. 2251B/10 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1010A/12 to Admty.) F.O.C.N.A. 1010A/12. Anticipate OSIRIS will be ready to leave Holy Loch on completion working up about 5/6. (F.O.S. 2114B/12 to Admty.)
TRUANT	Ready to sail for U.S. p.m./19. Request information of route, destination and signal publications to be carried. My 1010/12 to Admiralty and F.O. (S) only refer. N.A. Washington pass to B.A.R.M. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/12 to Admty.)
GERANIUM JONQUIL AZALEA	After parting company pass through positions (a) 035° 40' N., 015° W., (b) 035° 10' N., 010° W. thence Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1300/12)
U.S. Units.	U.S. Warships and aircraft therefrom may be encountered to westward of meridian 030° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1518/12 to ESPERENCE BAY)

/GARDENIA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

GARDENIA COLUMBINE	S.O. (I) Gibraltar's 1534/30/4. Have GARDENIA and COLUMBINE arrived? (F.O.C.N.A. 1854/12 to C. in C. S.A.)
RENOWN	Will be at 8 hours' notice for steam until 0200/14 to make good leaking steam joints (S.O.Force H., 1900Z/12 to Admty.)
REPULSE C.F. 1.	Cancel my 1747B/11. Remain with C.F. 1. (V.C.N.S. 2234B/12 to REPULSE)
French Convoy	Survey ship SENTINEL passed Gibraltar westbound at 1130/12 escorting French M.V's THISBE, AISNE, and GROUIN DU COU (D.O.R. 14/5)
Lisbon Refugees.	Your 1212/9. Proposal to divert ship to Lisbon before calling at Gibraltar cannot be approved. Understand from Foreign Office that there is possibility of rail transport being arranged for a certain number. (V.C.N.S., 2238B/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

PRIMULA EMPIRE TROOPER	Departure 1800/11 PRIMULA escorting EMPIRE TROOPER to lagos and thence to Simonstown in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 1621/10/5. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0431N/12 to Admty.)
NICOLAOS D.L. S.O.S. 12/4.	For your information, two signals have been found on board Yugoslavian BOSILJKA passed by U.S. ship PRESIDENT GARFIELD and timed 1212 and 1319 G.M.T. 12/4, reporting S.O.S. messages being sent by Greek ship NICOLAOS D.L. in 20° S., 22.20 W. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 1027/12 to S.O.I. Freetown)

/NEWCASTLE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary:

12.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

NEWCASTLE

Your 1459/1 and 1636/11. No Walrus available Simonstown, one available Freetown. Intend unless you have special requirements NEWCASTLE shall call Freetown. Ship can be usefully employed on Trade Routes on passage in conjunction with A.M.C. now operating. Ship would be routed through St. Helena Area in any case. Do you concur?
(C. in C. S.A. 1041N/12 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CRITON intercepted by CILICIA.

My 1633/10 CRITON bound from Toulon to Madagascar via Casablanca and Rufisque reached Freetown 1600/11. Has 1500 tons sand ballast, also naval stores for Diego Suarez as follows. No passengers. Officers and crew 42 mostly pro-British. Master stated he had no instructions to scuttle if intercepted and that such orders are no longer in force. When intercepted CRITON reported position of CILICIA by W/T. Request very early information whether prize proceedings are to be instituted and ship requisitioned as in previous case. If early decision crew can be provided from survivors from QUEEN MAUD and OAKDENE if retained and ship then sent down coast to load. CRITON is 9-knot ship and delay at Freetown may affect speed and prevent her sailing in convoy.
(C. in C. S.A. 1231N/12 to Admty).

BEL PAREIL
ARMERIA
BURDOCK.

A.T. 1236B/10. S.S. BELPAREIL with valuable cargo for M.E. will leave U.K. about 22/5 ARMERIA and BURDOCK will escort her as far as Freetown fuelling at Ponta Delgada on the way. On departure from Freetown request you will arrange A/S escort through submarine waters.
(D.O.D. (F) 1321B/12 to C. in C. S.A.)
ARMERIA and BURDOCK may call at Ponta Delgada for fuel about 29/5. Estimated fuel required 150 tons each.
(D.O.D. (F) 1322B/12 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
ARMERIA andBURDOCK will be required to escort S.S. BELPAREIL with valuable cargo to Freetown BELPAREIL loading Clyde and is expected to sail on 22/5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail and route the ships C. in C. S.A. informed
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1323B/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

Dakar Intelligence....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.5. 1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Dakar Intelligence. Report graded B.2 at Dakar 9/5. Warships RICHELIEU, GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE, three destroyers, 5 submarines MONTCALM believed left for Casablanca 9/5. Merchant shipping Dakar arrivals 5/5 CAPITAINE LUIGI, PORTHOS, LECONTE DE LILLE. 8/5. 2 or 3 ships which left following day for Indo China with troops. PORTHOS believed sailing for Marseilles about 20/5.
(S.O. (I) Freetown, 1741N/12 to Admty.)

W.S.8A. Your 1232/10/5. It had been hoped to repair HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN sufficiently for voyage to sail with W.S.8A. But this now doubtful. Remaining ship of convoy could take 100 only escort MAURITIUS about the same. Alternative is to sail HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN later with CILICIA who is available as escort. Convoy is sailing 1600/15.
(C. in C. S.A., 1851N/12 to Admty.).
Alternative approved, see 10338/13.

S.L.74. Collision. Greek ALIAKMON returned slightly damaged after collision with Greek ARPHYROS which proceeded with convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1980N/12 to Admty.)

Mediterranean

Corinth Canal. Giornale D'Italia of 10/5 claims now open to traffic. (D.S. 615.)

Andros
Tenos
Therma
(Cyclades) Stated in Italian Press to have been occupied. (N.S.615).

M.T.B.'s 10th M.T.B.Flotilla sailing at dawn M.T.A. Mersa Tobruk 1200/12.
(N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, 0030/12 to R.A. Alexandria.)
N.O.i/c Mersa Matruh's 0030/12. M.T.B.'s should not arrive before 0930.
(S.N.O. Tobruk, 0157/12 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

POPI VERNICOS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.5.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. (contd).

POPI VERNICOS — Have overhauled in 033° 06' 026° 20' Greek S.S. POPI VERNICOS which straggled from A S. 30 andhas troops on board. Unless orders to contrary are received intend escorting her towards Alexandria until about midnight 12/13 so that I can arrive Alexandria daylight 13th.
(GRIMSBY 0130C/12 to C. in C. Med).

"Tiger" Convoy. — Request you will report. (a) present condition of "TIGER" convoy as soon as you can break W/T silence. (b) When "TIGER" convoy is safely berthed at Alexandria.
(1st S.L. 0834B/12 to C. in C. Med).
Unloading ships of "TIGER" convoy must be carried out as quickly as possible to reduce risk from bombing before they are unloaded.
(1st S.L. 1126B/12 to F.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

Convoy A.S.F.30 — Comprising LOGICIAN, DALESMAN, NIEUW ZEELAND VOLO left Alexandria 2000 /11. Due Suda Bay 2100/13. Cargoes.
(N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1030/12 to Admty etc).

Operation M.D. 4 — My 1352/4. Report of Operation. (C. in C. Med., 1030/12 to Admty amended 23320/13) See Lion Copy.

Benghazi bombed. — Operational Summary No. 336 up to 1200 hrs. 12/5. Night 11/12 May
9 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour and 3 ships off Benghazi and Benina Derna and Gazala Aerodromes. Benghazi large fires started Benina 3 JU.52s 1 small aircraft set on fire. Derna bombs fell among aircraft and M.T. sheds. Gazala bombs fell among aircraft. 2. Crete. 10/5 escort patrols provided by Blenheims for convoy which left Suda Bay 9/5 and by Hurricanes for 1 M.V. and 2 H.M.Ships leaving Suda Bay evening 10/5. 2 enemy R/C's each of Suda Bay and Heraklion during day 11/5 Blenheim R/C reported 4 ships 300 tons at Melos Island.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1043/12).

UNIQUE CACHALOT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

UNIQUE
CACHALOT

Leave area and proceed (route) to arrive off Marsamxett 0600b /14. CACHALOT ordered to arrive between 0600 and 2000B same day. (Cdr. S.1. 1141B/12 to UNIQUE).

TRIUMPH, Benghazi.

TRIUMPH reports only S.W. approach to Benghazi is used. Arrival and departure taking place dawn and dusk along-side 10 fathom line. TRIUMPH appraoched within 1½ from? all directions, ? majority time spent between 15 and 20 fathom line between Benghazi and 32° N. KARKURA and ZUETINA appear unused. BURAT and EL AUEGIA are definitely in use and EL BREGA probably. All 3 are probably used as night anchorages for Coasters, All traffic sighted was coast crawling. Wrecks of Schooners exist in anchorage as follows, EL BREGA2, EL AUEGIA 1.
(Capt. S.1. 1231C/12 to TETRARCH).

Bombardment of Benghazi by 5th D.F.

Capt. D.5 reports 5th D.F. fired 866 rounds at shipping and military objectives at Benghazi at ranges between 5400 and 2800 yards. 3 fired from S.W. and 2 from W. Merchant ship alongside northern mole was engaged from harbour entrance and hit. After about 7 minutes shore battery on Giuliana Mole opened fire ineffectively 20 minutes after ceasing fire enemy dive bombers attacked with bombs and machine guns.
Three ships were missed by less than 100 yards and JACKAL had a dud bomb 20 yards from her bridge 45 minutes after ceasing fire Capt. (D) 5 correctly decided to abandon sweep to southward and withdrew at high speed as aircraft were shadowing and attacking repeatedly. Air attacks continued for more than an hour after ceasing fire. Flotilla was not attacked during daylight 11th.
(V.A. Malta, 1325B/12 to C. in C. Med).

Movement.

DIDO, CALCUTTA, ISIS, JANUS sailed to comply with C. in C. Med's 1007/11 (N.T. in W.R.) at 1420. Cannot make R/V but will overtake you 4p.m. today.
(R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1425C/12 to Capt. D.10).

Operation "Tiger".....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12. 5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Operation "Tiger"	My 1030/12 (N.T. in W.D.) Suggest following press communique. During the period 6th to 12th May our forces have been operating in central Mediterranean. These operations included various convoy movements and attacks on Benghazi. During these operations nine enemy aircraft were shot down and one damaged Our losses from enemy action were two fighters. Despite exaggerated claims made by the enemy during the period no damage of any sort was sustained by H.M. Ships. (C. in C. Med., 1507C/12 to Admty).
Oil -Haifa.	No crude or furnace oil is to be released for commercial purposes without prior reference to me. (C. in C. Med., 1554C/12 to N.O.I.C. Haifa).
Malta Air Raids.	Combined Services report up to 1600 hours 12/5. Night 11/5 12/5 5½ hours raid by about 30 aircraft in 3 waves starting 1900 hours. Main target Luqa aerodrome. Damage Luqa aerodrome hangar hit, 1 Maryland burnt out 1 badly damaged 2 others slight damage. Water and electricity affected. Many bombs on aerodrome, 3 unexploded, some damage to buildings. No damage dockyard. Damage civilian property andcasualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/12).
S/Ms	UNION and REGENT leave Malta 2000B/12. proceeding westward thence searched channels. Report your position. (S.O.(S) Malta 1646B/12 to UNDAUNTED).
7th C.S. 15th C.S.	ORION, AJAX, PERTH, form 7th C.S. NAIAD, PHOEBE, GLOUCESTER, FIJI, form 15th C.S. (C. in C. Med., 17050/12 to Med., Stn).
Malta Convoys and Stocks.	HMSHIP HOOD and SVENOR discharged. BRECONSHIRE will be discharged by p.m./15 Remaining ships will finish about 22/5. Following are important proposals for next convoy movement. (details). Consider it imperative to press on with building up stocks at Malta whilst the fleet is primarily engaged with central Mediterranean operations. If four fast ships cannot be found now I would prefer a small convoy at once rather thana largerconvoy later. (V.A. Malta, 1758B/12 to C. in C. Med.) See D. of S.T. 1703/14.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Yugoslavian S.S. SUPETUR.	Your 1901B/11. Investigations tend to discount possibility of crew having false papers or being pro Axis Wireless Operator Klein has been removed for internment Palestine. Master suspected still being checked. Discontent among crew disciplinary nature which hope to settle locally. 1851C/12.
Black Sea shipping	Reply to Admty 1547B/10 re details of shipping in Black Sea ports. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1905/12 amended 1110/15) See lion Copy. Part 2 Turkish Ships (S.O.I. Istanbul 1813/13) See Lion Copy.
Suez Canal.	Situation 2000/12. One mine exploded by D.W.I. at Km 88.3. Result disappointing (2) Further section of canal opened between Kantara and Tineh. Otherwise situation unchanged. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area., 2001C/12).
Situation Report No. 24.	2. Fleet returned to Alexandria 1000 TIGER convoy arrived 1300. 3. Western Desert LADYBIRD bombarded Gazala landing ground night 10th/11th causing several fires LADY-BIRD was divebombed and sunk at Tobruk p.m. today Monday, Some casualties Western Desert situation otherwise unchanged. 4. TRIUMPH on return from patrol reports boarding and sinking a 400 tons schooner off Marsa Breoa. TRIUMPH also bombarded Appollonia firing 48 rounds. 5.7th C.S. and three destroyers sail tonight Monday for operations in support of the army in Western Desert. 6. Result of Cap D.5's attack on Benghazi given in V.A. Malta's 1313/12. 7.Canal area situation unchanged. 8. Convoy A.S.30 arrived. Chief of Greek Naval Staff Admiral Sakellariou was on board AUCKLAND who was escorting convoy, 9. M.T.B. Flotilla due Tobruk tonight Monday on passage to Suda Bay. (C. in C. Med., 2314/12 to Admty etc).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Iranian Waters Shipping.

My 1120 and 1126/9. S.N.O. Persian G. Basrah G.O.C. Basrah have suggested, in order to forestall Iranian objections to unnotified interference ships using partly Iranian water ways, which might result in opposition and cutting off Abadan oil supplies to us, action regarding Japanese ships should be referred to Iran as a matter of mutual security. Average number of Japanese ships entering Shatt el Arab is only 3 in 2 months and no oil tankers have entered during last 6 months. (C. in C. E.I., 0730Z/12 to Admty.)

GLASGOW Repairs.

Your 1930/8. Although withdrawal of GLASGOW for so long will be severely felt if not relieved, I consider ship should be fully stengthened and alternative B accepted. I propose she should arrive Singapore about middle of June. Convoy escort commitments are becoming heavier. Request relief for GLASGOW may be urgently considered. (C. in C. E.I., 0732Z/12 to Admty.)

LIVERPOOL

My 0005/6. As result of further trials consider boiler cleaning can be deferred until arrival at final destination. Programme amended as follows. (LIVERPOOL 1131/12 to Admty. etc.)

HAWKINS

Sailed in accordance with C. in C. E.I., 1134Z/10. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1446Z/12)

Dhows for M/S Duties.

My 0636/5 para 4. I have approved purchase of four motor dhows prices varying between 4000 and 8000 Rupees. Details will be reported. (C. in C. E.I., 16322/12 to Admty.

SNAPDRAGON for Persian Gulf.

In view of threat of mining of Shatt el Arab by enemy aircraft SNAPDRAGON is to be sailed for Persian Gulf as soon as possible. No other 'LL' Sweepers will be operating in Persian Gulf for the present and arrangements should be made to obtain spares from remaining ships of the group. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1904B/12 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Indo-China — Following regarding situation communicated by Capt. Jouan on visit to Singapore, 12/5. (C. in C. China, 0925Z/12 and 0927Z/12 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

LAMOTTE PICQUET — My 0831Z/8, para 4. Recommend we should not provide repair materials for LAMOTTE PICQUET. (C. in C. China, 0957Z/13) See Operations Volume.

CHENONCEAUX — Departure 10/5 Haiphong 12/5. (Saigon, 0927Z/12 to M. of Shipping)

MAROUKO PATERAS — Your 0155/11. Ship named now at Hong Kong under amended orders to proceed to U.K. Cdre. Hong Kong 1151X/12 to A.C.N.B.)

America & West Indies

POINT LOBOS — My 1943/11 Agents received request for tug and water direct from ship and despatched Panama Canal salvage tug FAVOURITE at 1915/11 with approval of Ministry of Shipping, New York. (Consular Shipping Advisor, Panama, 1009/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

A.M.C's for H.X. Convoys. — My 1021P/7. Regret no A.M.C. is available for H.X. 127 which will have RAMILLIES as escort. Dates should therefore be amended as follows: CALIFORNIA 3/6, [illegible] 9/6, RANPURA 9/6, MALOJA 13/6, CHESHIRE 19/6, AUSONIA 23/6. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1113P/12 to Admty.)

Westbound Shipping Routes — Your 2053Z/9. Concur, amending signal will be made. (D.T.D. 1527B/12 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

/Martinique....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Martinique	Following from Navy Dept. from Fort de France 10/5. Arrived, AFRICA with cork, and FORT DE FRANCE with roofing material and cork, from Casablanca. (N.A. Washington, 1732/12 to Admty.)
FORT DE FRANCE French	Has arrived Martinique. This ship was captured on her last voyage to Casablanca by BULOLO but was recaptured by French Cruiser. If information of departure is available in time, desirable to intercept her to Eastward of Antilles next voyage to Morocco and send her in to Trinidad. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1903B/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Orders to this effect (C. in C. A.W.I., 10320/13)
PRINCE ROBERT PRINCE HENRY	As soon as practicable after arrival Esquimalt 15/5 intend PRINCE ROBERT return to Suva for escort of AORANGI and subsequent air training troop ships in accordance with N.Z.N.B's 0022Z/1/3. Request N.Z.N.B. report sailing date AORANGI from Suva and C.O.P.C. report earliest date PRINCE ROBERT can arrive Suva. Continuance of PRINCE ROBERT in this duty must depend on prevailing situation, in any case desired she return to Esquimalt at end of three months period Repairs to PRINCE HENRY will take about 30 days at Esquimalt. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1936Z/12 to N.Z.N.B.)
MONGIOIA (Italian)	Extract from a Fairmiss telegram GV 119 from Galveston. 11/5 Arrival MONGIOIA Departure Houston MONGIOIA Galveston. (Galveston, 2332Z/12 via M. of Shipping)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EASTERN STAR
(Torpedoed 7/5)
GREGALIA
(Torpedoed 9/5)
AELYBRYN
(Torpedoed 10/5)

Following survivors landed from DANEMAN today. EASTERN STAR 7 Officers 33 ratings GREGALIA 8 Officers (?44) ratings AELYBRYN, 10 Officers 35 ratings. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1342B/12 to Admty.)
Your 1142B/12 sent by W/R asking for copies of 0400/10 and 0805/10 from HOLLYHOCK. Following is repetition of HOLLYHOCK 0805/10 Message 0400/10 was not received. (begins) C. in C. W.A. from HOLLYHOCK. O.B. 318 scattered at 0300 G.M.T. Have searched large area without result. SS HERCULES still afloat at 0700. DANEMAN has survivors on board. Am returning to ascertain whether ship is Salveable. 0805/10 (Ends)
(C. in C. W.A. 1425B/12 to Admty.)
W.D. Note:- Name of torpedoed ship was amended to AELYBRYN in HOLLYHOCK's 1450Z/10.

LASSELL
(Torpedoed 30/4)

Consul at Bilbao reports by post intercepted wireless from Spanish SS KAULDI to owners Bilbao origin 1725/7 as follows (begins) Since 0900 proceeding to rescue survivors of British SS LASSELL in boats. Should reach position indicated midnight. Steering N. 20 W. noon position today 400 miles from Saint Vincent 270 miles from Canary Islands 200 tons bunker. Wind S.E. (ends) (N.A. Madrid, 1825/12 to Admty.)

EMPIRE CLOUD
(Torpedoed 9/5)

THAMES proceeding with EMPIRE CLOUD in accordnace with your 2230B/10. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1503/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
Continue to stand by damaged ship and report situation. Tugs unlikely to arrive before 14th. (C. in C. W.A. 2122B/12 to HOLLYHOCK, ST. APPOLLO)
Following from Tug THAMES. Master states unless there is 1 anti-submarine ship being provided to remain with THAMES throughout journey to EMPIRE CLOUD he will be forced return Harbour. 1720Z/12 (ends)
VERITY, CHELSEA, VENETIA, LARKSPUR are now in company with THAMES, but will part company to keep R.V. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2212/12 to C. in C. W.A.) Reply: 0246/13.

/IXION.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.5.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

IXION
(Torpedoed 7/5)

Arrived WESTCOTT, CAMPBELTOWN and MARIGOLD, latter with survivors ex SS IXION. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2218B/12. to Admty. etc.)
5 British seamen and 13 Chinese have arrived Greenock, and 3 Canadians and 6 gunners picked up by British NAILSEA MOOR (D.S. 616).

Submarines Reported

11/5

My position 058° 36' N., 036° 30' W. fog Visibility 5 cables. (S.O. 12th Escort Group. 07052/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1931B 11th, addressed AUBRETIA, D.12 has not joined. My p.c. and s is 057° 55' N 035° 28' W. 270° 6 AUBRETIA investigation submarine report, dense fog. Request position of S.C. 30. (NIGELLA, 0932/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1441B/12) (F.O.S., 1622B/12)

2014

At 2014 G.M.T. German submarine bearing 255° class 3. (F.O.C.N.A. 2207A/12 to N.A. Station)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Two M.T.B's carried out a sweep off the coast between Boulogne and Calais in the early hours of this morning.

RODNEY is to refit in the U.S.A.

British Air Operations.

Minor attacks were made last night on Dunkirk, Ostend and St. Nazaire.

This afternoon 10 Blenheims bombed Heligoland town and a jetty and machine gunned the streets. Surprise was achieved and little opposition was encountered.

Two Blenheims attacked shipping in the docks at St. Nazaire and obtained at least one direct hit on a 12,000 ton passenger cargo vessel. A 2000 ton merchant vessel off St. Nazaire was hit and is claimed as a total loss.

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.S. 88 was bombed at 2303 B today off the Tyne. S.S. LOTTINGE was hit but is not in danger of sinking, and GATESHEAD was slightly damaged.

A group of merchant vessels from Falmouth to Portland was unsuccessfully attacked at 1156 and 1235 off Portland Bill.

Trawler FORT RONA reported being sunk by air attack at 0030 today, 15 miles W.S.W. of Bardsey Island.

/There.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations. (contd).

There was some enemy air activity in the Plymouth area in the early hours of this monning and an oil tank at Keyham Oil Fuel Depot was damaged.

Slight damage was caused at Falmouth and Lowestoft and damage at Exmouth by air attack last night.

Mining.

4 Hampdens laid mines last night off the Frisian Is. and 4 Albacores off Cherbourg.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven yesterday and today.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated last night on a fairly high scale off the East Coast and in the southern approaches to the Irish sea.

North Atlantic.

A. F.W. aircraft operated off the west coast of Spain this forenoon.

9 Survivors have arrived in Cartagena from Norwegian tanker REGINA seized by the French in Algiers.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Stragglers from Greece.

The French S.S. BOURBONNAIS with 400 native troops for Madagascar is reported to have been intercepted this afternoon by BULOLO, about 100 miles S.W. of Dakar and is being escorted to Freetown.

Mediterranean.

Interception of French Ships.

Proposed policy signal is in S.O. Force H. 1034/13.

USK lost.

USK is overdue since 3/5 from patrol off Marittimo and must be considered lost.

Malta.

Malta was raided by 20 to 25 aircraft operating singly from 1945/12 to 0115/13, bombs being dropped in various localities. Some damage was caused in the Dockyard.

Luqa aerodrome was bombed at noon today but the only service damage reported is slight damage to one Wellington.

Libya.

7th C.S., on the way to bombard Derna tonight (see 14/5) were attacked by 12 German aircraft at 1700 and shot down two and damaged two more. No ships were damaged and the attack was not pressed home.

Crete.

Suda Bay was bombed last night for 7 hours by single aircraft. No damage or casualties occurred.

/Stragglers.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd).

Stragglers from Greece.

2 small vessels sailed last night from Castello and one from Canea, for Peloponnesus to bring away soldiers. Several vessels are missing from recent trips, (by which several thousand British and Greek soldiers have been brought to Crete since 2/5) and N.A., Canea thinks the present are probably the last trips that will be made.

Cyprus.

An examination service has been instituted at Famagusta, Cyprus.

Suez Canal.

A further section has been reopenéd, from Kantara to Toutineh.
It is intended to resume traffic for ships urgently required to move on 17/5.

East Indies.

LAWRENCE, anchored one mile south of Kabda was ordered by the Iranian Naval authorities to notify her arrival to the Legation at Teheran and to move by 1300, failing permission to remain. The ship is in Iraqian waters, and S.N.O. Persian Gulf has ordered her to remain where she is.

America & West Indies.

CARADOC has been ordered to patrol to intercept French S.S. FORT DE FRANCE to eastward of the Antilles on her next voyage to Casablanca.

MOST SECRET.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

N.W. Approaches.

SALOPIAN, who had been escorting S.C. 30 was torpedoed at 0630 in 56° 43' N. 38° 57' W. and sank later. IMPULSIVE picked up 278 survivors.

S.S. VANCOUVER ISLAND reported being chased by a submarine on the surface at 1626 in 55° 0' N. 20° 36' W.

S.S. SOMERSBY was torpedoed a.m. today in 60° 39' N. 26° 13' W. by a S/M believed to be Italian BABBARIGO class. The ship was a straggler from S.C. 30.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

1. Admiralty 640R/25th December 1940. Cases have occurred in which H.M. ships have carried out incorrect recognition procedure resulting in the merchant ship sending an unnecessary distress message, and in another case in loss of life due to abandoning ship.
2. The importance of carrying out the procedure correctly has been stressed to masters of merchant ships. It is even more important that H.M. ships should not fail on this point. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1256B/13 "A" Mge Home and Abroad 71A).

Policy.

Loan of Corvettes to R.C. Navy.

Your 1823B/7 Approved.
(Head of M. 1145B/13 to C. in C. W.A).

4 Trawlers for service abroad.

Request you will detail four trawlers fitted type 123, for service abroad and signal their names to the Admiralty. They may be required to sail on or about 2/6 but 6 days" notice will be given. Tropical Clothing will be required.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1257B/13 to C. in C.W.A)

Fighter Protection for Shipping. Conference.

A conference will be held in Air Ministry at 1030/16th to discuss the methods for providing fighter protection for shipping and to consider means of improving the system. Authorities addressed are requested to send a representative.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1313B/13 to C's in C. Home Ports)

20th M/L Flotilla.

A.L. M/P.D. 09652/41 of 25/4/41. Request 20th M/L Flotilla when formed may be based at Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1507/13).

/U.S.A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (contd).

U.S.A. Coastguard Cutters.

On arrival in Home Waters American Coastguard cutters which have been taken over by the Royal Navy are to join W.A. Command.
2. It is most important that there should be no delay in the cutters working up and in commencing operations.
5. It is intended that these ships should work up at Londonderry, thereafter operating in the N.W. Approaches.
6. It is requested you will direct these ships into an appropriate port, informing the Admiralty.
(2nd S.L. 2316B/13 to C. in C. W.A).

CLYDE.

Your 1237B/10. CLYDE should be retained in U.K. for the present. (1st S.L. 2339B/13 to F.O.S).

Movements.

BERWICK Escort and Movements.

A.M. 1944B/12. Detach WIVERN and WILD SWAN in company with BERKELEY and BLENCATHRA to Plymouth at 2200/13. E.T.A. 0800/14. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0033B/13 to BERWICK).
Your 2130/12. In view of BERWICK's E.T.A. Scapa 0730/15, request she may proceed direct to Rosyth to arrive May Island before sunset/15 and proceed to anchor berth off Rosyth for the night. Ship will be basined about 0700/16. (C. in C. Rosyth 1110/13 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
Comply with C. in C. Rosyth 1110/13 provided you are up to time and your speed is proving sufficient for you to carry out this programme. Inform C. in C. Rosyth direct of your movements. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1637B/13 to BERWICK).

Clyde-Iceland Ferry.

D.S. 3 and CHESHIRE with LANCASTER WELLS arrived. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1931/13).
Cancel A.M. 1905B/12. D.S. 4 is to sail as usual, R.A.(M) providing normal escort. (D.O.D.H. 2015B/13).

/VICTORIOUS.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

VICTORIOUS. A.M. 2256B/10, para 7 and 8.
In addition to the six destroyers supplied from W.A. resources, C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 4th D.F. to afford additional escort, to arrive Clyde by p.m. /21.
2. 4th D.F. may return direct to Plymouth on leaving convoys.
3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide such escort for VICTORIOUS to Oversay light as he considers necessary. (V.C.N.S. 2011B/13).

RODNEY. UKARM no. 195.
1. It has been decided that RODNEY is to sail for the U.S.A. to refit.
2. RODNEY will not embark special ammunition and will disembark at the Clyde all 16" H.E. and 200 rounds of 6" H.E. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail RODNEY for the Clyde as soon as convenient to disembark this ammunition and embark stores in accordance with A.M. 1021N/10.
3. RODNEY will afford ocean escort to BRITANNIC and SOUTHERN PRINCE and my 1905B/12 is cancelled.
4. Both ships will be ready to leave the U.K. on 21/5. BRITANNIC carries 2,700 service personnel.
5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail the ships in accordance with route to be promulgated by Admiralty.
66 C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide A/S escort to limit of destroyer's endurance.
7. A.M. 2256B/10. Home Fleet will not now be required to provide any destroyers for W.S. 8(B) other than escort of VICTORIOUS to rendesvous. (V.C.N.S. 2014B/13).

SURCOUF. C. in C. A. and W.I. 1001Q/11th and A.M 1829B/13th. Amend my 2322B/10th position (C) as follows. (C. in C. W.A. 2246B/13 to SURFOUF).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol. Proposed re-arrangement.

In view of recent lack of targets in Northern Bay of Biscay patrol and probability of most enemy shipping entering Gironde and La Pallice from westward it is suggested the two submarines on Bay of Biscay patrol would be better employed in southern area which cannot be regularly covered by the aircraft now available.
(ii) Propose one submarine operates between 045° and 046° N. and 002° and 004° W. and the other between 044° and 045° N. and 007° and 009° W.
(iii) 19 group will provide reconnaissance between these areas when practicable.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1256/13).
C. in C. Plymouth's 1256/13. The present employment of submarines in the Bay of Biscay is based on the following considerations.
1. The exceptional advantages of operating in the free for all area.
2. The latest shipping routes so far as they are known as indicated by Adty's 2047B/12.
3. Large areas whereby as much scope as possible is afforded to the commanding officers.
4. German submarines are more effective than Italian and there is always the possibility of an encounter on their route between Lorient and their operation areas, Admiralty's 1758B/10 being a recent example. (F.O.S. 2559B/13).

SOKUL.

You should spend a portion of your time on patrol in area 10 miles either side of lines joining 047° 20' N. 004° 46' W. 046° 45' N. 004° 46' W. Keep special good look out for M/V's approaching from westward Fishing craft sighted may be an indication of the approach of M/V's and they should be treated with especial caution. (F.O.S. -1449B/13 to SOKUL).

/M.T.B.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

M.T.B. Patrols.

Weather permitting one unit of M.T.B's is to carry out an offensive patrol between Ostend and Flushing tonight. Any ship met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1456B/13 to BEEHIVE).
Intend to sail two M.T.B's at 0001 tomorrow to carry out a sweep off enemy coast between Boulogne and Calais. (V.A. Dover 1847B/12)
Harwich departures M.G.B's 60 and 65. (F.O. Harwich 2037B/13).
Departures M.T.B's 43 and 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2138B/13).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Air patrols today: Unst, Hornli. (C. in C. Rosyth 0630/13).

Firing at Unseen Targets.

It is essential in view of the increased number and weight of enemy night air attacks on H.M. Ships and convoys that the Rules governing fire by H.M. Ships at unseen targets should be agreed as soon as possible. Adty. proposals to meet this urgent requirement were passed to H.Q. Bomber, Fighter, and Coastal Commands in your 1050 of 1/4/41. A reply that will enable the rules to be put into force at a very early date is requested. (A.C.N.S.H. 1433B/13 to Air Ministry).

Low Flying by Own A/C at Night.

Following from C. in C. Nore begins. (Repeats C. in C. Nore 1034B/11).
2. Admiralty concur. (D. of L.D. 1512B/13 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ST. PATRICK bombed.	(British, 1922 Tons) Received 2335 G.M.T. from ST. PATRICK. AAAA 5 miles E. by S; Tuskar. ST. PATRICK bombed 0135. (Burnham Radio, Recd. 0215/13).
Plymouth Keyham Falmouth Exmouth bombed.	Some enemy aircraft in area between 0046 and 0104 and again between 0146 and 0421. No sustained attack developed but at approx. 0049/0329 a stick of H.E. and 30 incendiaries fell at Keyham Quarry causing fire and damage to No. 2 tank. Casualities and damage at Keyham College, Exmouth and Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 0518/13, S.C.E. Devonport 1645/13).
SELKIRK. (Bombed 4/5) FRANC TIREUR (Bombed 5/5).	Departure SELKIRK towed by tugs KENIA and LYNCH. ROSS towing A/P trawler FRANC TIREUR, escorted by QUORN. All for London except QUORN and KENIA. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0651B/13).
DEGERIN.	Captain of S.S. ST. PATRICK reports the Irish Free State S.S. DEGERIN being machine gunned and bombed when 4 miles E. by S. of Tuscar at 0043/12 no damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1110/13).
MENARA.	s.s. MENARA 962 tons Irish Free State report sighting two Heinkel Seaplanes on water at 0230/12 between Skoner Island and Bishops. Planes took off and attacked ship from height of 200 feet each dropping one small bomb which missed. No damage. Two wounded. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1121/13)
Convoy RANGE.	Help, enemy aircraft attacking convoy RANGE 222° 5 miles from Portland Bill speed 7 knots. (OLVINA 1200/13). Cancel my 1200. (OLVINA 1226/13). RANGE was attacked by one Junkers 88 at 1156 and by two unidentified planes at 1235 when off Portland Bill. Bombs were dropped on both occasions but no damage reported. Air escort was in area. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1635/13).

/RICHARD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

RICHARD DE LARRINAGA (Bombed 12/5).	My 0550/12. SEA GIANT returned to Harbour at 0930/12. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1540/13).
FALAISE MISS ENGLAND NOMAD III JAKE II SAFARI COMET I ALTAIR IGLOO (Thames A/P Motor Boats) sunk on Night 10/11.	Following eight vessels attached to R.N. A/P London were lost through enemy action on night of May 10th FALAISE, MISS ENGLAND, NOMAD III, JAKE II, SAFARI, COMET I, ALTAIR and IGLOO. (F.O.I.C. London 1545/13).
Lowestoft bombed.	Enemy action damage Lowestoft 0300/13/41. Details. (C.E. Great Yarmouth 1754B/13).
SOMERSET (Bombed 11/5).	Arrived Clyde S.S. PERTH with 60 survivors from S.S. SOMERSET. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1830B/13).
Flying Boat MAIA sunk.	Your 2259B/13. My 0412/13 read British Overseas Flying Boat Maia bombed and sunk in Poole Harbour at 0130/12 by enemy aircraft which was subsequently shot down by A/P and other vessels, 1 German airman picked up and in hospital 0412/12. (N.O.I.C. Poole 2130/13).
Convoy F.S. Even.	Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy ARENA in 55° N. 1° 10' W. 200 Buoy. (Rosyth W/T 2303B/13) (FRANKLIN 2315/13).
BLUSH ROSE. damaged.	(British, 645 Tons) Attacked by A/C on 10/5 16 miles S.W. of Bardsey Island. Some damage to engines. (D.S. No. 616).

/STROMBOLI.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

STROMBOLI. (Norwegian 1376 Tons) submerged.
KENTAR (Dutch, 5878 Tons) damaged.

In air-raid on Liverpool before 10/5. (D.S. No. 616).

FINLAND damaged.

(British, 1333 Tons) Damaged during air-raid on Belfast on Night 4/5 May. (D.S. No. 616).

Mining.

B.S.56.

My 2204B/13. B.S. 56 is to be carried out as soon as practicable. Request proposed movements, programme. (C. in C. Nore 0934B/13 to TEVIOT BANK).

River Thames.

Owing to countermining Operations vessels are warned to keep to the south side of Woolwich Reach when passing Tate and Lyles Factory Silvertown at 1715/14th. (F.O.I.C. London 1832/13).

Milford Haven.

2 red mines detonated by L.L. as follows. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2234/13).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Battlecruisers SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were seen to be at Brest in usual berths a6 0815/13. (D.D.I.C. 1314B/13).

Suspicious Vessel.

Following read from Lands End Radio
Disguised M/V Raider 44° 42' N. 30° 57'W.
EMPIRE STEELHEAD suspicious, following.
(Liverpool 2336/13).
Cancel my 2336/13 EMPIRE STEELHEAD.
(Lands End W/T 2345/13 G.M.T).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

C.F.1. — C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange that on arrival in U.K. MONARCH OF BERMUDA should proceed to Liverpool and EMPRESS OF JAPAN to Clyde. (D.S.T. 1104B/13 to C. in C. W.A).

H.X. 122. — On time at R.V. with all ships. Good weather apart from fog after leaving Halifax. (D.T.D. 1325B/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). Cargoes D. S. 616.

S.C. 29. — On time at R.V. with 40 ships YORKMOOR proceeded to Reykjavik for engine repairs; all others now reported. Good weather, except for 52 hours fog after leaving Halifax. (D.T.D. 1327B/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Cargoes D.S. 616.

Suspect Ships. — My 1648/16/2. Following ships are suspect. Belgian ALEXANDRE ANDRE ROUMANIE Norwegian BRAGA, BUENOS AIRES CHRISTIAN KNUDSEN ELISE. FRAM. GRENANGER, IVARAN. MELINE. NORDANGER. Greek EUGENIE LIVANOS British ex Danish INGER TOFT. Danish KIRSTEN MAERSK. THRYA. S. Dutch STAD, MAASSLUIS, THEANO TJIKANDI. Egyptian RADAMES. A.M. 1818/16/2 is cancelled. N.C.S.O. Halifax is requested to inform N.C.S.O. Sydney who has not received formers. (D.T.D. 1427B/13 to Halifax, Bermuda, Freetown, Gibraltar).

Liverpool Escorts. — My 1850B/8. Commencing with next incoming group Liverpool escort groups will proceed to Liverpool on completion of escort duty. (C. in C. W.A., 1834B/13 to Capt. D. Liverpool).

W.S.8B. — Admiralty 2256B/10 is being repeated to you for information. (H.W.R. 1936B/13 to C. in C. Plymouth).

BRITANNIC, SOUTHERN, PRINCE. — RODNEY to escort. (V.C.N.S., 2014B/13) See Movementsq

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ROCKINGHAM. E.T.A. 0530/14. Request pilot and also tug be available to stand by (?Ship) from Calshot Spit as only one engine is available. (ROCKINGHAM 0800/13 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

RODNEY. RODNEY is at 24 hours notice with Port Horse Power flexible couplings seized. (C. in C. H.F. 2215/13).

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Interception of French ships.	S.O. Force H., 1034/13 to Admty. (See Operations Volume).
O.G.61 JONQUIL.	Proceed with GERANIUM and AZALEA to join SCARBORUUGH during daylight as extra escort for O.G.61. Estimated p.c.& s. of SCARBORUUGH at 1200/13 is 043° 12' N 020° 52' W 170° 6½ knots, routed through 039° 40' N 020° 00' W 035° 40' 015° 00' 010° 00'. Remain with O.G.61 as long as fuel permits. Netherlands S/M O.21 has been ordered to R/V with O.G.61 at 0900/13 and if convoy is not met by 1200/13 O.21 proceed Gibraltar on route and at speed of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1116B/13 to JONQUIL).
VELOX WISHART.	My 1306/2 VELOX will be sailed 14/5 for Freetown provided WISHART can be sailed simultaneously or nearly so. No reply yet can be given about HECTOR. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144/13 to C. in C. S.A.)
German A/C	Focke Wulf aircraft has been operating off West Coast of Spain since 0915, and at 1120 was in 37° 00' N 15° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 1205B/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)
REGINA survivors.	Cartagena reports arrival of 9 survivors of tanker REGINA in motor launch. I am trying to facilitate onward journey to Gibraltar. (N.A. Madrid, 1253/13 to Admty).
OSIRIS	Your 1010/A/12. OSIRIS will not be ready to leave U.K. until about 5/6, and will, therefore be unable to escort O.G.63. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1333B/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)
PANDORA REGENT.	After crossing 009° E proceed through 037° 00' 001° 00' E 035° 45' 002° 45' W 035° 45' 004° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1410A/13 to PANDORA, REGENT).

Aircraft in Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Aircraft in Operation "Tiger".

Fulmar pilots strongly of opinion behaviour of enemy aircraft suggests Fulmars mistaken for Hurricanes. Suggest B.B.C. announcement that on return British force Gibraltar confirmed our loss of two Hurricanes and not 14 aircraft as stated in Italian broadcast.
(S.O. Force H., 1456/13 to Admty).
Remarks re weather etc., in operation "Tiger".
(S.O. Force H., 1541/13 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

French Convoy.

French destroyer FRONDEUR passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1840/13 escorting French M/Vs AZROU, and TLEMCEN.
(D.O.R. 15/5).

Corvettes.

My 1234/1. Re sailing Corvettes ARMERIA BURDOCK, ASTER and WOODRUFF. Delete ARMERIA and BURDOCK. My 1321B/12 which refers is being passed to F.O.C.N.A.
(D.O.D.(F) 1835B/13 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Lisbon Refugees.

As Admiralty do not approve of transport calling suggest ARDEOLA is utilized. No other shipping is available. Report maximum number that can be embarked. E.T.A. Gibraltar of Transport not yet known.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1906/13 to N.A. Lisbon).

ERNANI (Italian).

There is indication ERNANI will shortly sail from Las Palmas.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2233A/13 to N.A. Stn).

South Atlantic.

EAGLE NELSON.

Your 1851/10 and 1311/11. EAGLE reports oiler cannot lie alongside at St. Helena in even slight swell without severe damage to both oiler and ship's bilges which extend over six feet from side below water line. Fuelling by selstirrup is not practicable as adequate hoses are not supplied. Above is based on previous experience in exposed anchorages and his personal knowledge of St. Helena. In view of this NELSON anddEAGLE intend proceeding Freetown direct at 15knots so as to arrive a.m./23 unless ordered to contury.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 0633Z/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EAGLE
NELSON(contd).

My 0633/13th. Capetown departures 0650/13 NELSON and EAGLE for Freetown direct. Speed of advance 13. E.T.A. outer and Freetown searched channel 0900/23.
(Capt. I/C Simonstown, 0703Z/13).

W.S.6A.

Your 1851/12. Approved for HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN to be escorted by CILICIA, sailing as soon as possible to overtake convoy.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1033B/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

GARDENIA
COLUMBINE

Your 1854/12. Arrived a.m./8.
(C. in C. S.A. 1151N/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CUMBERLAND
ALCANTARA
movements.

CUMBERLAND visits Buenos Aires 15/5 - 17/5 ALCANTARA arrive L32 15/5 and is to R/V with CUMBERLAND and ABBEYDALE at F.O. at daylight 18/5 to discharge drafts and stores. ALCANTARA fuels at Montevideo 19/5 then proceed to K 32 K 33. CUMBERLAND patrols L.31 L.32 ASTURIAS is to enter Rio de Janeiro to fuel 1200 G.M.T./23 then proceed to R/V with ABBEYDALE at F.O. P.M./27 to embark stores and draft ? details ALCANTARA subsequently patrolling L.31 L.32. I will arrange all visits.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1250Z/13 to ASTURIAS, ALCANTARA, NEWCASTLE.)

Look out ships
in S.L. Convoys.

Your letter No. 253/047 dated 22/2/41 and your signal 2013/1/5. Request you will arrange trials as proposed in A.M.1832/31/3 on the next occasion when an S.L. convoy is sailed without warship escort other than A.M.C. Proposal A in your 2013/1 is preferred as the limitations which B would impose would it is considered defeat the object. It is not intended look out ships should be stationed in known U/B danger areas.
(D.T.D. 1331B/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NELSON weather casualties.

Ref. 10442/13 report of casualties. NELSON to Admiralty repeated to you and my 1315 13th to you. (N.T. in W.R.) On turning seawards after passing Table Bay breakwater NELSON forecastle swept by two successive heavy seas resulting in four ratings overboard, and approx 25 injured. Two lost overboard. Five injured landed, ship ultimately sailed 1317/13.
(N.O.I.C. Capetown, 1430B/13 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Routeing of Shipping.

Your 0001/1st sec. 3 para (6) As amended by your 1219/5. Questions are being raised as to where ships of convoy speed from South America may bunker on passage to Bermuda, notably may oil burning ships bunker at Trinidad. Request general information on these points be issued.
(C. in C. S.A. 1537N/13 to Admty).

BOURBONNAIS intercepted by BULOLO.

French BOURBONNAIS 4484 tons, was intercepted by BULOLO about 100 miles S.W. of Dakar on 13/5. She had on board 400 native troops for Madagascar and is being escorted to Freetown.
(D.S. 617, 14/5 and D.O.R.14/5 no signal received in W.D.)

PORTLAND (German).

Left Talcahuano on 30/1, is now believed to have arrived at Bordeaux at end of March, where it is reported she was sunk in harbour during a British air raid.
(B.4) (D.S.617,14/5).

ARCOLA
TAGETE
TODARO

Italian tankers at Teneriffe, reported (A.2) on 11/5 to have had their bottoms cleared by divers, to be painted grey, and to be keeping steam. (D.S. 617,14/5).

My 0115/13 Requesting stores for MAURITIUS be sent to Freetown. MAURITIUS should be at Freetown about 11/6 further movements unknown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1633N/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Attack on Enemy Convoy.

Following information of convoy sighted by Maryland recco 4 Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. 3 with torpedoes and 1 carrying flare, despatched night 12th/13th. Convoy contacted and attacked at 2030 in 34° 01' N 12° 01' N. 12° 39' E., course 236° speed 10 knots,. Weather fine, clear, no flares used. 1 DR and 1 M/V 8000 tons believed hit. M/V at first smoking followed by large explosion. DR emitting large column of smoke, not smoke screen. Attack was complete surprise. No opposition. All aircraft returned safely.
(H.Q. RA.F. Med., 0700/13 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E).

USK lost.

Regret to report USK is now overdue since 3/5 and must be considered lost. USK was on patrol off Maritimo and reported 26/4 that she was shifting berth to Cape Bon in view of intense A/S activity. Nothing further has been heard.
(C. in C. Med., 1611C/13 to Admty).

Air Operations.

Summary No.337 up to 1200 hours 13/5. Day 12/5. 1 sweep of Suez Canal by 2 D.W.I. Wellingtons exploded 1 mine. Night 12/13 May.

2 Enemy aircraft dropped bombs in Aboukir Bay. No damage reported. Western Desert. Following details of Wellington raids night 11/12. Benghazi 1 large fire on each of Moloz, Italia, and Catherdral Mole with several small fires on latter. Further bombs fell near 2 ships 5,000 tons anchored outside harbour. Derna. 1 bomb near large ship just outside harbour.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1057/13).

Evacuation from Peloponnesus.

2 small vessels sailed last night from Castello also one from Canea all for Peloponnesus to bring away soldiers. Several vessels are missing from recent trips and present are probably last that will be made. Have had to guarantee full replacement value for losses. Several thousand British and Greek soldiers have landed on Crete in this manner since 2/5.
(Britnavat Canea 1151/13 to C. in C. Med).

Turkish Aerodromes.....

MOST SECRET.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Turkish Aerodromes.	Danger of German occupation of aerodromes in preparation in Thrace and Anatolia. (1st S.L. 1143/13 to C. in C. Med). See Lion Copy.
Operation M.D.4 EMPIRE SONG (mined 9/5).	My 1956B/9. Transport EMPIRE SONG in "Tiger" exploded two mines almost simultaneously on starboard side and some seconds later another same side. All presumably cut by p.v.'s. Four hours after first mine the whole forepart of ship exploded after part then sinking immediately. Master considers fire caused somehow by concussions. All ships company, Naval and Military personnel on board taken off by FORESIGHT and now at Malta with following exceptions. (V.A. Malta 1209B/13 to Admty).
REGENT PANDORA.	Anticipate approx position as follows REGENT 036° 10' 009° 00' at 0200B/15 thence as directed by Capt (S) 8. PANDORA 038° 25' 009° 00' at 2100/15 thence as directed by F.O.C.N.A. (Cdr. S.1., 1211B/13 to PANDORA, REGENT).
Situation report 25.	WESTERN DESERT. LADYBIRD see my 231/13. Tobruk Harbour is being kept open and supplies continue to be unloaded from small ships in spite of scale of air attack. Scale enemy advance reported 12th in Sollum area does not seem to have materialised and Military situation unchanged. 7th C.S. operating tonight 13/14 against Derna. Derna CRETE. My 2341/10 RAWNSLEY bombed night 11/12 and sank after explosion. Fear little of her military cargo had been unloaded owing to transport difficulties on South coast. Only three M.T.B's of 10th Flotilla have sailed for Suda remainder returning Alexandria with defects. Some bombing at Suda Bay but no serious damage. Canal Area. Canal still closed but further section reopened Kantara Toutineh. One mine exploded 12th. Trawling results DHSA pointing. Malta (as H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0700/13). (C. in C. Med., 1355/13 to Admty).

Palestine .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Palestine.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 105 addressed Cs. in C. Med and M.E. You will have seen Damascus telegrams Nos. 54 and 55 to F.O. dated 12/5. What is your appreciation and what action, if any do you propose?
(1st S.L. 1633B/13 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Air Raids.

Combined services report Malta up to 1600/13/5. Times G.M.T. Night 12/13. 1945 to 0115 hours, 3 air alarms. 20 to 25 aircraft operating singly dropped bombs in various localities causing following damage. (Army) Navy. Some damage to dockyard. Further damage to Bighi hospital, no casualties. Day 13/5. 1200 hours small information JU88's escorted by 25 ME 109's dropped bombs on Luqa aerodrome. Slight damage to 1 Wellingtn from bomb splinters. Civilian casualties.

Enemy Units.

Maryland recco Tripoli. 12 Medium 15 small M/Vs 3 destroyers 6 T.B.s 11 seaplanes. Usual hospital ship outside harbour. Following convoy seen at 1130 G.M.T. 4 miles out heading for harbour 2 medium M/Vs 4 destroyers 1 fleet auxiliary 3 unidentified aircraft escorting. Maryland Eastern Tunisian coast. 0600 hours 1 large 4 small M/Vs 4 destroyers 35.05 N. 12.30 E course 010° speed 8 knots. Convoy unladen. 0800 hours 1 6" cruiser 1 destroyer 35.04' N 12.38' E. course 036° 18 knots.
(H.Q. Med., 0635/13).

Turkish Ferry Boats.

M.A. Ankara in his 1230/10 to W.O. states Turks anxious about disposal of ferry boat ECEABAT believed to have been at Suez since 10/4. Provided safe passage could be arranged boat should be allowed to proceed and you should inform M.A. Ankara accordingly. Further 7 ferry boats due in Egypt end of May. Request whether these can be regarded as vital requirement for British Naval and Military purposes, and whether you recommend their retention.
(Head of M. 1736B/13 to C. in C. Med).

Black Sea.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Black Sea Shipping.	My 1905/12. Part 2, Turkish Merchant Fleet, etc. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1812/13 to Admty). See Lion Copy.
ITHAKA, CORDELIA YALOVA	Report graded B.3 that these German Steamers left Constanza 1800 (2 groups mutilated) 12/5 for Salonica. Cargoes believed ammunition with forage on top. Will telegraph arrival Bosphorus. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1920/13 to Cairo for C. in C. Med.)
Famagusta Examination Service.	An Examination Service is in force at Famagusta Cyprus. Ships are to stop in vicinity of Turks Island Buoy in position 035° 09' N 033° 56' E to await instructions. Ships proceeding westward of line running 330° 152° through Turks Island buoy without permission are liable to be fired on. (C. in C. Med., 2035C/13 to N.O.I.C.'s etc).
LADYBIRD. sunk.	Received two direct hits and sank in Mersa Tobruk harbour at 1505/12 during dive bombing attack by at least 40 aircraft. One hit aft and one amidships. After part disintegrated. Remainder on fire for many hours but some salvage may be possible. Foremast gun continued firing after ship hit and on fire. Casualties as in N.O.I.C. Mersa Tobruk 2133/12 (N.T. in W.D.) (C. in C. Med., 2331/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LIVERPOOL. Sailed from Colombo at 0050Z/13/5. E.T.A. Johore Shoal Buoy 0700Z/17.
(C. in C. E.I., 0400Z/13, to C. in C. China.)

CANBERRA. To leave Aden a.m./14 and proceed 15 knots to establish a patrol in area bounded by equator, 002° N., and longitude 55° and 62°. Speed on patrol 12 knots. Object protection of shipping. (C. in C. E.I., 0654Z/13, to CANBERRA.)

B.P.5. My 1130/8. Sailing dates for B.P.5., Bombay and Karachi for Basra.
(C. in C. E.I., 0734Z/13 to Cdre.R.I.N.)

Iraq, Army Plans. All army troops at Habbaniya will come under Habforce after arrival flying column at Habbaniya. Flying Column will advance on Baghdad as soon as possible with view securing control main railway station and civil airport and getting into touch with British Embassy. Representatives of Regent should accompany column with view getting into touch with elements favourable to Regent in Baghdad.
(C. in C. M.E., 1310/13, to G.O.C.,Palestine.

LAWRENCE. Iran Attitude. Anchored one mile south of Kabda, was boarded by Iranian naval officer who requested formal notice of arrival be given to Legation at Teheran and permission obtained to remain there, failing which ship had to move by 1300z/10/5 (or received) (?1300z/13/5.) Since ship is in Iraqian waters S.N.O. Persian Gulf ordered her to remain where she was and I concur. Minister Teheran informed.
(C. in C. E.I., 1916z/13, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Japan,
Indo-China,
Thailand. F.E.W.30. Situation.
(C.O.I.S., Far East, 08512/13, to Admty., etc.)

ERITREA
MUNSTERLAND
(German.) Kobe Departure Italian sloop ERITREA probably 11/5. Nagoya departure MUNSTERLAND 12/5. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 10572/13, to Admty., etc.)

D'ARTAGNAN
(French.) Departure for Manila.
(N.C.S.O., Shanghai, 23592/13.)

America & West Indies.

PORT DE FRANCE.
(French.) Particularly desired to intercept French PORT DE FRANCE to eastward Antilles on her next voyage to Casablanca, and efforts being made to obtain early information of departure. Adjust patrol at your discretion but ship is not to be intercepted within 20 miles of French or neutral territory or within Caribbean Sea.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 10320/13, to CARADOC.)

Adm. Lais. Your 1500/10. Admiral Lais and 2 orderlies left Bermuda 13/5 in U.S. EXCALIBUR for Lisbon, under original safe conduct. Suggest H.M. Ships be informed that baggage already thoroughly searched. Admiral has requested that his movements be reported to Italian Embassy, Washington. No action taken by me.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 11010/13, to Admty.)

Visits to
U.S. Navy
Air Service. Ref. Admty., letter A 0269/41 approving in principle interchange of visits by officers of F.A.A., and U.S., Naval Air Service. Possible to spare two officer observers at present for a few weeks to visit ships and stations in U.S. Visits are principally required to aircraft carrier. (Names of officers.)(Piarco, 1148/1
to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/U.S. Submarine.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

U.S. Submarine. Following received from Washington, One U.S. Submarine leaves New London about 14/5 and is due to arrive Bermuda 18/5. (D.D.I.C. 1148B/13, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Greek Shipping. There is urgent need for good Greek shipping mission in Canada. Greek Seamen generally appear to distrust owners over wage questions which is principal cause of crew trouble in these ships and many are willing to sign on British ships at British wages and only ask for a square deal. Noteworthy that they seldom if ever raised crew trouble over non supply of L.A. Armament as has been the case with other nationalities. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1339Z/13, to Adty.)

MONGOLIA. Italian ship MONGLOIA sailed Houston 11/5 and arrived Galveston same day. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1509Z/13.)

Merchant Ships W/T receivers. C.O.A.C. suggests possible some of success of last eight Halifax convoys is due to strict orders concerning oscillating W/T receivers and private broadcast receivers. Suggest Bermuda might well take similar action as if only one ship is allowed to oscillate the security of the whole is imperilled. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1643z/13, to Adty.)

C.G.Cutters. U.S. Cutters SEBAGO CHAMPLAIN and CAYUGA were commissioned 12/5 as H.M. Ships WALNEY SWINTON and TOTLAND respectively. These three ships will sail for (?Halifax) 14/5. (MALAYA 1655/13.)

SURCOUF. Request you will comply with C. in C.A.W., T. 10010/11. (A.C.N.S. (W) 1829B/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

REVENGE. To part company with H.X.125 forthwith and return to Halifax. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2332B/13 to REVENGE.)

/SHEPHERD...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

SHEHERAZADE (French.)	Left Galveston, Texas, 12/5 for Casablanca. (Galverton, Texas, 2333/13 to M. of S.)

Australia.

Suspect W/T op: in Belgian ALEXANDRE ANDRE.	Your 1914B/11. Emile Rene Wuytt interned. Your report forwarded by air mail not yet received. (A.C.N.B. 0524Z/13, to Admty.)
MAROUKO PATRAS.	Cancel my 0156Z/11. Ship in Hong Kong. (A.C.N.B., 0738Z/13.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.5.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

Summary. Periodic summary of Anti-U-boat campaign for April. (D.T.D., 1954B/13 to A.I.C.12, 19.) See Lion Copy.

Ships Attacked.

EMPIRE CLOUD. (torpedoed 9/5.) Your 2212/12. Order THAMES to proceed EMPIRE CLOUD and inform him that ST.APOLLO is standing by ship and will escort him throughout operation. (C. in C. W.A., 02468/13 to N.O.I.C.Iceland.) Am proceeding in company with THAMES whose compass and guns are out of action to assist EMPIRE CLOUD in 059° 30' or 35' (?) N., 028° 33' W. My 2100/13 position 061° 38' N., 027° 28' W., Course 194°. Speed 12 knots. I have no information as to condition or possible movements of EMPIRE CLOUD. Am assuming she is stopped. (ANEMONE, 2130B/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

ARLYBRYN (torpedoed 10/5.) ZWART ZEE sailed for ARLYBRYN 2330/12. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0839/13, to C. in C.W.A.) HOLLYHOCK standing by ARLYBRYN is to escort ZWARTE ZEE with tow to Reykjavik. (C. in C. W.A., 1056B/13 to HOLLYHOCK, ZWARTE ZEE.)

CALCHAS. (torpedoed 21/4.) Following received from Consul St. Vincent. Arrived St. Vincent 10/5 21 survivors from British ship CALCHAS, 11 men 1 woman British, 9 Chinese. (N.A. Lisbon 1122/13, to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

SALOPIAN A.M.C. Following received from Cdre H.X. 124 intercepted. SS SS 056° 43' N., 038° 57'W. A.M.C. (? torpedoed.) abandoned T.O.O. 0630 (ends) Am proceeding position given in orders from Cdr. D. 12. My p.c. and s. are 059° 01' N., 036° 03'W., 213° 24 knots. Fuel remaining does not permit greater speed. A.M.C. considered to be SALOPIAN. Weather. (AMAZON, 1600Z/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

SOMERSBY. Torpedoed A.M/13. See 14/5.

/VANCOUVER....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.5.1941. Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

VANCOUVER ISLAND. (escaped). — Following has been read. SSSS de GPK now 55. OON 20.36 W. VANCOUVER ISLAND being chased by submarine on surface. (Port Patrick Radio, 1626/13).

WRAY CASTLE. (torpedoed 5/5). — 43 of crew of S.S. WRAY CASTLE due Freetown in Portuguese SS LORENCO MARQUES 14/5. Vessel torpedoed at 2047 G;M.T/5 in 006. 48' N., 013. 35' W., two torpedoes. Vessel sank in 5 minutes. Crew picked up by Portuguese ANGOOA and landed Sao Thome. C.Bs. supposed destroyer. Above obtained from Master of ANGOLA at Loanda and is subject to confirmation by Master of WRAY CASTLE after arrival. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2159N/13 to Admty.).

Submarines Reported.

2207/12. — My 2207A/12, bearing was from Gibralter. (F.O.C.N.A., 0103/13 to N.A. Stn).

1609. — Following has been read. SSSS De GPK. 54.56 N. 20.48 W. VANCOUVER ISLAND. Submarine sighted on surface. (Port Patrick 1609/13). Admty., message A.F. position. 54° 56' N: 20° 48'' W., at 1609/13 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1645/13).

1900. — Following has been read. SSSS Submarine Raider 8. 57 N., 16.53 W. EGBA sighted periscope. (Freetown 1907/13, 1918 G.M.T/13) G.B.M.S. 6A. Admty. Message A.F. 008. 57N., -016. 53W. 1900/13.
(C. in C. S.A. 1916/13 to All British Merchant Ships)
Estimed U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1616B/13).

Submarines Attacked.

By VISENDA. — One submarine 062° 17' N., 014° (?33') W., have attacked. (VISENDA, 2235B/13, to S.O. Trawlers N.P).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.T.B. Patrol.

One unit of M.T.B's carried out an offensive patrol last night between Ostend and Flushing There is nothing to report.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command cancelled all operations for last night and today on account of the weather.

A balloon barrage was seen over Brest for the first time last night.

An aircraft of Coastal Command on offensive patrol attacked with torpedo at 1145 today a 5,000 ton ship in an escorted convoy of 5 in 52° 25' N 4° 10' E (18 miles west of Ijmuiden) and believes the vessel was hit.

Enemy Air Operations.

Examination Vessel M.A. WEST was sunk by air attack at 1427 today off Yarmouth.

Convoy F.S.88 was attacked again at 1850 today in 53° 28' N 1° E. but no damage is reported.

S.S. JESSIE MAERSK...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations. (contd).

S.S. JESSIE MAERSK in Convoy WN 26 was attacked at 2323 off Peterhead and had casualties but, it is believed no damage.

Convoy OB 321 was attacked this morning in the N.W. Approaches by 2 F.W. 3.3. KARLANDER was badly damaged and had to be sunk.

Mining.

Operation S.N.9B.

1st M.L.S. and 4 destroyers left Port Z.A. at 1035 to lay mines off the S.E. coast of Iceland (c) with HERMIONE and escort and C.S.10 in NIGERIA, with KENYA, providing cover.

Harbour defence patrol craft MINICOY and an R.A.F. launch were mined about 1300 today off Milford Haven and sank.

Mediterranean.

Syria

Owing to the use of Syrian aerodromes which is being made by German aircraft proceeding to Iraq, the War Office today informed C. in C. M.E. that he was free to act against German aircraft in Syria and on French aerodromes, irrespective of the possible effect of ~~each~~ such action on relations with Vichy and Free French.

Fleet Operations....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.(contd).

Fleet Operations.

V.A. 1st B.S. in QUEEN ELIZABETH with BARHAM, 3 cruisers and 7 destroyers left Alexandria p.m. today to operate south and west of Crete. Convoy A.S.31 is leaving Suda Bay tonight for Alexandria with personnel not required, escorted by DIDO, CALCUTTA and 4 destroyers.

Malta

Luqa Aerodrome was attacked by about 18 aircraft from 2200/13 to 0200/14; aircraft and buildings were damage.

Libya

The bombardment of Derna, aerodrome by 7th C.S. last night was abandoned owing to the failure of communication with spotting aircraft.

Crete

Suda Bay was intermittently bombed last night and was dive bombed p.m. today, S.S. DALESMAN was hit and beached. Maleme and Candia was also heavily bombed and machine gunned; some aircraft were damaged on the ground at Maleme.

East Indies.

CANBERRA left Aden this morning to patrol between equator and 2° N, and 55° - 62° E.

America & West Indies.

The elimination of enemy shipping has enabled C. in C. A.W.& I. to employ his available ships in a more offensive manner. Two groups have been formed to patrol in the central North Atlantic with the object of intercepting raiders and supply ships. One group consists of a "D" class cruiser and oiler and the other of VAN KINSBERGEN and PRINCE DAVID.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.5.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Conference on Fighter Protection for Shipping.

Cancel my 1313/13. Regret it has been found that notice is too short to enable all Naval representatives concerned to attend on date proposed. (A.C.N.S.T. 0028B/14.)
Cancel my 1313/13. A preliminary conference presided over by the Director of Home Operations will be held in Admiralty at 1100/16 to discuss items on an Agenda prepared by Air Ministry with regard to improving the system for providing fighter protection for shipping. Authorities addressed are requested to send a representative. (A.C.N.S.T. 0029B/14 to C's in C. Home Commands.)
A147 14/5. Your 1313/13. If convenient to you propose to hold conference at 1030/23. (H.Q.F.C. 1745/14 to Adty.)

SURCOUF. My 1487/14. I estimate that SURCOUF is perfectly qualified for the mission of long duration foreseen. Such mission however can be assumed in a usual manner only if this ship has got the spare crew to be used as help and spare hand. Almost all this crew is now missing. Following 14 Ratings are badly needed. Most desirable that SURCOUF should find these men at her future base for immediate replacing of the certain losses of the voyage. (SURCOUF 1503/14.)

3 Trawlers and 4 Whalers for Mediterranean. Request you will sail the following minesweeping vessels for the Mediterranean via the Cape, as they become available:-
(a) Trawlers. LORD IRWIN, CORDELA, LORINDA, NORSE.
(b) Whalers: GOS.7, KOS 10, KOS 11 KOS 12.
2. (a) The endurance of the trawlers will be given by the reply to Adty., 1646/24/4.
(b) The endurance of the whalers is estimated to be 1900 miles at 10 knots. Request you will report the route adopted.
3. C's in C. concerned are requested to arrange for onward route from Freetown.
4. The sailing of ships should not be delayed in order that they may proceed in company. (D.O.D.F. 1686B/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.5.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Iceland. Your O.760 cipher 12/5.
What additional garrison do you recommend.
(War Office 2020/14 to G.O.C. Iceland.

Movements.

REPULSE
ARGUS. My 2256B/10. REPULSE will be required to afford ocean escort to Gibraltar to ARGUS and VICTORIOUS.
2. This force will sail in company with convoy W.S.8.(B). The position where this force is to be detached from the main convoy will be promulgated by Admiralty.
(V.C.N.S. 1105B/14. to REPULSE.)
Been ordered (?R.T.A.) Clyde with ARGUS, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, and 5 destroyers at 1415B 15. ARGUS is discharging 812 squadron to Campbeltown, E.T.A. 0930B 15.
(REPULSE 2254B/14.)

VICTORIOUS. VICTORIOUS is to sail from Rosyth at 0530/15 and after degauss ranging off Burntisland is to sail for Scapa carrying out programme as in VICTORIOUS's 1558/12. Capt. (D) 6 is to sail AURORA, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, and ESKIMO from Rosyth A.M. 15th to R/V as required by VICTORIOUS and act under orders of VICTORIOUS as close escort to Scapa.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1120/14.)

BERWICK. Admiralty 1944B/12 Para. 3. Request you sail one Destroyer to provide A/A escort from Dunnett Head to May Island.
(C. in C. H.F. 1423B/14 to R.A.D.)
Scapa departure PUNJABI to escort BERWICK.
(A.C.O.S. 2230/14.)

/FURIOUS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.5.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

FURIOUS. At Daylight/15 detach TARTAR, MASHONA to Scapa. LEGION to H G 61 for which orders follow. (C. in C. W.A. 1637B/14 to FURIOUS.)

KOS. 5. KOS 5 at present at Greenock is to be sailed as early as convenient for duty under N.O.I.C. Faroes. (D.O.D.H. 1640/14.)

SURCOUF. Sailed 2130 SURCOUF escorted by WILD SWAN 2. Escort parts company in 049° 45' N., 004° 27' W., proceeding thence to Needles. E.T.A. Bermuda 14/6/41. (C. in C. Plymouth 2232/14.)

Operations.

M.T.B. Sweep. M.T.B's report sighted nothing. Visibility 5000 yards. Approached to two miles Weneuyne Bank. North West Hinder Buoy extinguished. No activity ashore. M.G.B's nothing to report. Conditions very good. (BEEHIVE 1027B/14.)

Jan Mayen. Request you will ask Jan Mayen report on the ice conditions around the island. (C. in C. H.F. 1052B/14 to F.O.I.C.Iceland.) HONNINGSVAAG and H.J.BULL sailed for Jan Mayen 2100 tonight with additional personnel and stores. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1849B/14.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Patrol UNST being flown 0500 - 0800/14.
Patrol HORNLI P.M./14.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0312/14.)
Parallel track A/S Sweep will be flown by 3 Whitleys from 2200/14 to 0110/15 covering following area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1822/14.)

3 Whitley.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.5.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Patrols Contd. 3 Whitley aircraft from following Datum Line at 1400/15 to sweep to a depth of 300 miles on track 304°.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1936/14.)
My 1936/14. Amend to read "datum line 56° 04' N., 05° 49' W - 59° 08' N., 05° 13' W" and amend track to 282°.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2344/14.)

Heligoland bombed. 2 M/V's damaged or sunk. Night 13/14. All operations were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather. On 13/5 at Heligoland, ten A/C dropped 4 tons of bombs. The main streets were machine gunned, and a gun-post and barrack blocks were also machine gunned. A 12,000 ton passenger cargo vessel lying at St. Nazaire received at least one direct hit, and large flash and flames were observed from amidships. This is claimed as very severely damaged. A 2,000 ton merchant vessel off Ushant was also hit and left listing to port and settling by the stern. This is claimed as a total loss.
(H.Q.B.C. 0415/14.)

Operation HARLEY. Operation HARLEY completed 1600 today.
(C.D.B. 1700/14 to 41 Group.)

5000-Ton M/V attacked off Helder. Ref. ROVER. T/22 reports sighted convoy of 25 MV. (1 of 5000 tons and 4 of 2,500) 2 EV. 6° 700 Tons in 52° 25' N., 4° 10' E., at 1142,00, 220T., SP 5-6 kts. At 1146 dropped torpedo from 80 ft. at 600 yards range. Aimed at largest MV. Torpedo seen to run straight and large column of black smoke seen. Actual hit not seen owing to misty weather and avoiding action taken by aircraft. Intense heavy and light flak from all seven ships. No hits registered by flak. (Chatham 1737/14.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

LOTTINGE (Bombed 13/5).

SEA GIANT is to proceed immediately to 20 C Buoy to assist MONA'S ISLE standing by damaged vessel. On no account is vessel to enter Tyne if in danger of sinking or drawing more than 25 feet. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0014/14).
MONA'S ISLE towing LOTTINGE to South of Swept Channel to anchor between T. and T.2 Buoys. Vessel report steam available and in no danger of sinking. SEA GIANT standing by. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0103/14).
SEA GIANT returned to Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0222/14).

Convoy O.B.321
KARLANDER (Norwegian, 1843 tons) sunk.

2 F.W. Condor attacked OB.321. KARLANDER boiler room, engine room, and hold flooded, Salvage impossible. CAMPANULA sinking her by gunfire. Crew in rescue ships. (VANQUISHER 0815B/14)
Your 1426B/14 reference my 0815B /14. F.c.& S, 055° 31' N 014° 42 ' W 286° 7½ knots. (VANQUISHER 1600B/14).

Aircraft report.
(H.Q. 15 Group 2235/14).

Greenock Air Raid. damaged

Reference East India Graving Dock - Port of Greenock bomb damage items were as follows Details. Greenock Harbour Trust states repairs quite beyond financial capacity of the Trust. After full discussion it is agreed that necessary drive will only be forthcoming if Admiralty arrange for repair of docks and supply of two pumps.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1200/14 to Admty).

Convoy attacked.

At 0815 saw Condor a/c attacking Convoy of 30 M/Vs and 6 escort ships in 54° 55' N 13° 10' W. One Bomb seen to drop . No damage to convoy so far as known. A/C report (Limavady 1500/14 to Admty).

M.A. WEST.

(Examination vessel) Sunk by hostile aircraft 105° approx. 1 mile harbour entrance at 1437 today. Crew safe. (N.O.I.C.Gt.Yarmouth 1504/14)

Convoy W.N. Even.

Convoy CHITTY being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft bearing 120° course 100° my position 57° 43' N. 1° 43' W. (HASTINGS 1635/14).

Figh-ter Aircraft.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy W.N. Even. (contd).	Fighter Aircraft being despatched to assistance of Convoy CHITTY Convoy SINCLAIR. (Rosyth 1651/14).
Shoeburyness Signal Station bombed on night 11/12.	Following damage to R.N. S.S. Shoeburyness caused on night 11/12 as a result of small bomb falling 100 yards away. Functioning of premises not interfered with. (C.C.W. Sheerness 1710/14).
Ryde bombed.	Air raid at dawn on 12/5 caused damage to MEDINA. Estimated cost of damage £100. (S.C.E. Portsmouth 1800/14).
Convoy F.S.58	Enemy A/C bombing convoy ARENA in 53° 28' N 1° E. (EMPIRE SOLDIER 1850/14). Fighters are being sent to assist convoy ARENA (More W/T 1905B/14). Enemy A/C bombing convoy ARENA in position 53° 28' N 1° E. (EMPIRE SOLDIER 1950B/14).
Brest. Balloon Barrage.	Sortie W/584. Further examination reveals for first time Balloon Barrage of 33 balloons over Brest. (C.I.U. Medmenham, 2015/14 to H.Q.C.C.)
Convoys W.N. Even and DAFFODIL.	Air protection being sent to Convoy CHITTY and DAFFODIL. (Rosyth W/T 2243/14).
JESSIE MAERSK.	(Danish 1972 tons). Attacked by aeroplane seven miles south by West of Peterhead. (Lyness W/T Recd. 2323/14). Position 57° 15' N 1° 38' W. (Lyness W/T Recd., 2334/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Plymouth.

Owing to suspected minelaying do not arrive at Seaward End of QZ3 183 before 0700.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0248/14 to VIDETTE).

Operation B.S. 56.

Intend TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER and CATTISTOCK to sail from Spurn Point at 0715/15 and arrive Tyne 1915/15. Sail from Tyne at 0530/16 and R/V with minesweepers at 200 Buoy at 0715/16, proceeding thence through Gap B and five miles west of B.S.55 to initial position. Laying will begin at 1300/16 Return from south end of line to 18 Buoy and thence to Humber.
(S.O. M/L Immingham 1005/14).

S.N. 9 B.

Departure Port Z.A. R.A.(M) in AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, ELECTRA, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, ST. MARYS.
(TRELAWNEY 1035/14).

R.A.F. Launch 316 sunk.
MINICOY (Harbour Defence Vessel)sunk.

Sunk by accoustic mine outside swept channel in position 104° St. Annes 14 cables. One survivor. Harbour defence vessel MINICOY who proceeded to her assistance was also sunk by accoustic mine her position 094° St. Annes 11 cables. Four survivors.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1423/14).
MINICOY was mined at about 1300 today in Milford Haven and sank immediately. The following are missing presumed drowned.
Names.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1625/14).

River Thames.

Cancel my 1832/13. Operation will now take place 1830/15th.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1515/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy off Boulogne.

Report of 1 large ship 5,000 to 10,000 tons and 8 to 10 smaller vessels 10 to 20 miles S.W. Boulogne 5 to 10 miles off the Coast, course North.
One aircraft to verify this and report on conditions over target and cloud cover available.
(Chatham 1116/14)

Brest.

Both battlecruisers in usual positions. Rade Abri and Rade de Brest obscured by cloud. Floating dock has left dry dock since last night and is now seen at its previous position alongside 150 ton electric crane. A balloon barrage around the town and along the breakwater was seen for the first time on last night's Sortie W/584.
(P.R.U. St. Eval 1125/14).
Brest 1845/14. Both Battlecruisers still present in their usual positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1949/14)

Wooden Vessel West of Brest.

At 1135 sighted wooden vessel at anchor in 48° 28' N 08° 24' W approx 60 ft. very broad in beam, big hold, wheelhouse. 1 life boat, auxiliary motor, 2 small masts, wearing French flag on after mast, 300 yards astern was a ring of oily scum.
(Plymouth Broadcast 1700/14 to H.Q.19 Group).

Brest. Both battlecruisers in normal positions. One M/V approx 500 ft. has arrived in Rade Abri where another M/V 300 ft. is still present. 530 ft. M/V still anchored in Rade De Brest. Balloon barrage still in position.
(P.R.U. St. Eval 2125/14)

FARNDALE's Trawler.

Trawler you are escorting is to be referred to as the Norwegian FROYEN. Inform trawler.
(A.C.O.S. 2337B/14 to FARNDALE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S. 8 B.	Revised proposals for embarkation of Personnel. (D.S.T. 0746 B/14 to P.S.T.O. West Scotland, etc).
H.G.60	Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all ships of convoy H.G.60. (C. in C. W.A. 1149/14 to Vice Adm. Mackworth.)
F.N.(M) and F.S.(M) convoys superseded.	Coastal colliers are mostly slow ships. In order to expedite their movements and so assist in building up stocks of coal in South of England during summer months, the F.N.(M) and F.S.(M) convoys are to be superseded by F.H.(S) and F.S.(S) convoys on an early date agreed between C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Rosyth. The E.C.(M) convoy is from the same date to be for ships of not less than 7 knots from Southend to Methil and for ships of not less than 8 knots from Methil onwards. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1936B/14 to Cs.in C Nore, Rosyth).
Warning of Hostile Aircraft.	A black flag is to denote that aircraft has not been identified and should be regarded with suspicion. Hoisting of the flag is to be accompanied by a long blast on the whistle or syren, to be repeated by all ships of the convoy. This signal is not to be used on East Coast of U.K. (D.S.D. 1957/14 to C.B.M.S. all areas except A.I.C.12)
Service Personnel.	Re number of Government personnel who may travel in unescorted merchant ships. (4th S.L., 1956B/14 to Cs. in C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ULSTER MONARCH.	12 pdr. H.A. IX mounting in ULSTER MONARCH is permanently distorted. Gun was lifted, but repairs are not possible in time available Request allocation of another mounting may be made for future occasion of ship being taken in hand. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1637B/14).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Raiders — My 1936B/7. Intelligence (D.D.I.C. 2217B/14) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic

Lisbon Refugees. — Your 2238B/12 and my 1906/13. Request early information as to date of arrival these transports. No hotel accommodation ashore as ARDEOLA is not passenger ship and refugees will have to be put in between deck it is most essential that transfer transport takes place on arrival of ARDEOLA. Also desirable ARDEOLA should arrive Gibraltar simultaneously first transport so that voyage may be made if necessary. (F.O.C.N.A., 1006/14 to Admty.)

Interception of French Ships. — Ref. S.O. Force H's 1034/13/5 and Admty. 2028/27/4 (N.T. in W.D.) I am unaware of and instructions given to REGENT regarding either of the above messages. PANDORA had orders to comply (?with) Admty. 2028/27/4 on leaving my station. My 1020/20/4 refers (F.O.C.N.A. 1040/14 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Explosions — Your 1841B/13 my 1909/10 and my 1051/11. This does not appear to be same case as reported French broadcast no lives lost and explosion in sight of Portuguese coast. (N.A. Lisbon, 1104/14 to Admty.)

ERNANI (Italian) — Now alongside the jetty loading cargo previously loaded into warehouse. (Consul, Las Palmas.1220/14 to Admty.)

Gibraltar — Your 1932/6. Policy re evacuation. (Hd. of M., 1300B/14 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume.

/Dutch S/M's....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Dutch S/M's use in Mediterranean.

Admty. 2251/10. Dutch submarines do not carry sufficent internal fuel to operate at this distance from Gibraltar and Dutch C.O. consider fuel in external tanks might leak through vent if latter was sprung by depth charge even though cottared. Suggestions. Request early approval. (S. 8., 1625A/14 to F.O.S.)

Damage to Ships B.B.C. News.

B.B.C. news today stated none of H.M.Ships sustained any damage during operations in Central Mediterranean between 6/5 and 12/5. Repairs to RENOWN as result of gun accident and to FORTUNE as result of near miss are inevitably common knowledge here. As Dockyard employs 14 different nationalities, I consider such false statements furnish material for enemy propaganda. (F.O.C.N.A. 1814/14 to Admty.) (Reply: 1130/16)

South Atlantic

MAURITIUS W.S. 8 A.

Departure 0800/14. MAURITIUS escorting convoy W.S. 8 A. (less HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN) Local A/A escort WISHART, DUNCAN, BOREAS and HIGHLANDER until p.m. 16. (S.O.I. Freetown 1157N/14 to Admty.)

NELSON Fuelling St. Helena.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 0633/13. (?) Several types of ships have fuelled alongside successfully at St. Helena since last October with little difficulty. Oiler there has stirrup gear 315 feet 3½" and 120 feet 5" hose with necessary adaptation. Passage at 13 knots approved but approach through at least last 800 miles to Freetown should be at 18 knots. If endurance in doubt, fuelling by stirrup method St. Helena should be further considered. (C. in C. S.A., 1317N/14 to NELSON)

Submarines Argentine

The acting President last night informed H.M. Ambassador that decree banning entry of submarines to Argentine waters would be signed last night Tuesday. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1415/14 to D.N.I. etc.)

/DORSETSHIRE...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

DORSETSHIRE	C. in C. S.A. 1027N/11 and 2137N/12 Destination of DORSETSHIRE is Tyne, where she will be taken in hand for a short refit by Messrs. Palmers of Hebburn. (D.O.D. (H) 1831B/14 to C. in C. S.A.)
Munitions landed at St. Vincent.	British Consul St. Vincent report 1805/11 states 100 officers and N.C.Os, 800 Portuguese troops and about £50,000 worth of munitions and equipment were landed St. Vincent 11/5. Should like information whether this is likely to be directed against occupation of islands by British or U.S.N. or whether in view of possibility of attack by Axis Powers. (C. in C. S.A., 1839N/14 to Admty.)
ARUNDEL CASTLE	Return to port of departure. (C. in C. S.A., 1926N/14 to ARUNDEL CASTLE) Admty. 1337B/7. ARUNDEL CASTLE sailed from Freetown 14/5 routed to U.K. in error has accommodation for 40 first and second class 200 troop deck only remainder of space having been filled with cargo at Cape. Has been recalled to be re-
NEA HELLAS	routed to Gibraltar. NEA HELLAS expected to arrive Gibraltar about 23/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1927N/14 to F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)
VENEZUELA	Overdue shipping. Swedish VENEZUELA Faroes departure 13/4 due Rio de Janeiro 2/5 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1956N/14 to Admty.)
South African Whale Catchers.	My 1207B/10/5. In view of reallocation which is understood to have been arranged between Dominions Office and Union High Commissioner of whale catchers fitting out in S.A., request early confirmation that (1) Noble Nora group at Durban (Admty. 2021/18/2) will not be manned by Admty. My 2352/24/3 to Admty. refers. (2) NORDOEN KEKTOR VI POL I and POL V will be turned over to Union Govt.

/(3).....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

South African Whale Catchers-Contd.

(3) Eight whale catchers for LL sweeping at present belonging to Union Govt. will be made available to Admty. fully manned on same basis as 22nd A/S group. (4) Officers appointed by Admty. to vessels in groups 1 and 2 above now understood to be on passage to S. Africa to join ships should be sent on to Alexandria for disposal. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2009B/14 to Admty.)

ADAMELLO FAUSTO

Italian, at Montevideo. Crews allowed to return to their ships, but guards are to remain on board. (D.S., 618, 15/5)

Durban Defences.

Request you bring to notice of South African Government desirability of providing anti-torpedo defence across harbout mouth at Durban. (Head of M. 2051A/14 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Mediterranean.

"Tiger" Convoy.

Report estimated date on which each ship of "Tiger" Convoy will be unloaded. (1st S.L. 0037B/14 to R.A. Alexandria.) CLAN CHATTON 15. CLAN LAMONT 17. CLAN CAMPBELL 19, NEW ZEALAND STAR about 22. Ref your 0037/14. These are earliest dates and without allowing for interruption. (R.A. Alexandria 1256C/14 to Admty.) Request you inform A.O.C. Med. that T.L. appreciate the important part R.A.F. at Malta played in getting "Tiger" through. (1st S.L., 0058/14 to V.A.M.)

Air Report.

Operational Summary No 338 up to 1200 hrs. 14/5 1941. 13/5. During afternoon one enemy aircraft reconnoitred Suez Canal. Night 12/13. Suda Bay bombed by single aircraft for 7 hours during night. No damage or casualties. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1043/14)

Suda Bay Bombed.

/Malta Convoy..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Convoy

Propose CLAN CHATTON, CLAN LAMONT, CLAN CAMPBELL and NEW ZEALAND STAR for next Malta convoy. THERMOPOLYAE, TALABOT, SETTLER, AMERIKA, to be released on return to Egypt. (C. in C.,Med., 1108C/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt, D. of S.T.)

ITHAKA
CORDELIA
YALOVA
German.

Believed loaded with ammunition, left Constanza 1800/12 for Salonika, estimated speed 9 knots. Cargo believed camouflaged with tobacco on top. (Capt. S. 1. 1111C/14 to ROEQUAL)
ITHAKA entered Bosphorus south bound 1100 C. hours. Particulars as on previous voyage. (S.O.I. Istanbul, T.H.I., 1251/14 B.S.T.)
CORDELIA 1400 tons YALOVA 3800 tons entered Bosphorus 1800C. and 1930 C hours Estimated speed 9 and 10. (S.O.I. Istanbul 2038/14 to Cairo for C. in C. Med.)

Corinth Canal.

Cancel my 1050/4. Did you receive full report Corinth Canal despatched 8/5 possible time of origin 1214? (N.A. Canea, 1152/14 to Admty.)

Shipping in Black Sea Ports.

My 1812/13 para C (2) of 65 ferry steamers, only about (? fifty) Bosphorus, nine Smyrna, and remaining six probably Dardanelles. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1215/14 to Admty.)

German Ships in Spanish Ports.

Cartagena reports reason to believe all German ships in Spanish Mediterranean ports are to go to Marseilles immediately as Germans require more shipping for transport Europe to North Africa. (No (? assessment.)
(N.A. Madrid 1315/14 to Admty.)

CAMPINA
German Ships for Aegean.

Roumanian tanker CAMPINA passed Istanbul 0845 C today for Aegean. Fully loaded 3800 tons petroleum. Speed 10 (details) Ref. my immediately preceding telegram (1920/13) German ships not signalled yet. Possibly calling Bourgas. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1510/14 to Cairo for C. in C. Med.)

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta Air Raids.	Report Malta up to 1600 hours 14/5. Times G.M.T. Night 13/14. About 18 aircraft over from 2200 to 0200 hours. Target Luqa aerodrome where 12 bombs dropped. Some bombs Imtarfa Hospital, negligible civilian damage and no casualties. 2 patrols during day of about 10 M.E. 109's First patrol 14000 to 10000 covering recco JU. 88 and 2nd dropping small bombs Luqa and Takali aerodromes. No casualties. 2 Hurricanes shot down. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1635/14)
Malta Supplies.	Your 1758/12. Every merchant ship which can be provided for U.K. import programme is of utmost value at present. Whilst recognising special difficulties of Malta, would urge that stock position there appears satisfactory, and it is hoped next supply convoy can be limited and especially use of refrigerated ships and tanker can be avoided. We would much prefer at present one or two ships for small convoy to a large convoy of four fast ships. (D.S.T., 1703B/14 to V.A. Malta.)
ITHACA CORDELIA YALOVA (German)	N.A. Ankara reports reported to have sailed Constanza 1800/12 presumably for Aegean. Speed 9 knots. Local authorities informed. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1731/14 to Admty.)
German Aircraft in Syria.	You are certainly free to act against German aircraft in Syria and on French aerodromes irrespective of possible effect of such action on relations with Vichy and Free French. We realise that you cannot with certainty differentiate between German and French aircraft but this cannot be helped and it should be impressed on the French in Syria that it is they who are drawing the war to their country by conniving at and indeed assisting German penetration. (W.O. 2215/14 to C. in C. M.E. Chiefs of Staff No 107.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

LAWRENCE
Attitude of Iranians.

My 1916/13 S.N.O.P.G. informs me that LAWRENCE has sent letter ashore explaining that she is in Irag waters. Iranians have mounted Bren guns on shore and trained them on ship. S.N.O.P.G. has referred matter to Minister Teheran explaining that LAWRENCE has been at Fao without objections for over a week and pointing out present dispositions of H.M.B.F. in Shatt-El-Aran area, none of which does he consider as constituting a visit to Iranian port. He also communicated with Iranian C. in C. on the matter. (C. in C. E.I., 0054Z/14 to Admty.)
My 0054/14/5. Consul Khorramshahr visited local Iranian C. in C. Latter was not unfriendly but apparently trying to save face. S.N.O. Persian Gulf intends to take no action until he hears from Teheran. In meantime he has instructed LAWRENCE to avoid any incident.
(C. in C. E.I., 0710Z/14 to Admty.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH

In view of A.C.N.B.'s 0938/10 request you arrange for QUEEN ELIZABETH to proceed Singapore for docking. (D. of S.T., 0747B/14 to C. in C. E.I.)

America Shipping Suez.

Re discharge of increased shipments, Suez and Port Sudan, chiefly in American ships. (D. of S.T., 0815B/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)
See Lion Copy.

AQUITANIA
ILE DE FRANCE

Your 1834/10. Dangers of these large ships using Durban and Colombo during S.W. Monsoon. (C. in C. E.I., 1228Z/14 to Admty)
See Lion Copy.

CAMERONIA
HECTOR
CARTHAGE

D.S.T.O. Mombasa 1120/12. H.T. CAMERONIA carrying 1000 prisoners and 800 service personnel, is to sail from Mombasa a.m./16 escorted by HECTOR. CARTHAGE is to leave Durban a.m./17 and proceed to R.V. with HECTOR and CAMERONIA in about 021° S., on 19/5. After making R.V. CARTHAGE is to escort CAMERONIA to Durban and HECTOR (A.M.C.) is to proceed to Mombasa at 15 knots. CAMERONIA route. (C. in C. E.I., 1102Z/14 to N.O.I.C. East Africa.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

CORNWALL action with raider 8/5.	Re disposal of prisoners and British survivors. (C. in C. E.I., 1332Z/14 to Governor, Seychelles)
Convcy B.P. 3.	Consisting of 4 personnel ships, arrived Rooka Flat at 0930Z/15 and proceeds to Basra. (C. in C. E.I., 1536Z/14 to Admty.)
German Planes at Damascus.	Approx. 14 German planes painted in Iraqi colours reached Damascus on 11/5. It is likely that German planes will continue to use Syrian aerodromes unhindered by Vichy. These planes destined for assistance of Iraqi forces. Graded A.1. (D.N.I., 1555B/14 to C. in C. E.I., S.N.O. P.G.)
Ceylon Naval Volunteer Force.	In June, 1940, Governor of Ceylon informed me Board of Ministers was anxious to consider placing Ceylon Naval Volunteer Force at disposal of H.M. for General Service for duration of War. In September after considering essential conditions which I had outlined, Ministers expressed their regret that financial position and constitutional difficulties precluded their proceeding with suggested offer. In January. I attended a Meeting of the Board to explain any doubtful points. I have just been informed Ministers have again decided against such an offer. (C. in C. E.I., 1718Z/14 to Admty.)
W.S. 7. Cargoes, Suez.	Owing shortage of tugs and lighters at Suez it is not possible discharge cargo from W.S. 7 as well as from U.S. 10 B and other essential ships. Submit after embarking personnel ships ex W.S. 7 shpuld be sailed for Aden forthwith, cargo being discharged at Mombasa or Durban and returned to Suez in suitable smaller ships. (S.S.T.O. Suez, 1837/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Indo-China

My 0929Z/12. Jouan supplied following brief details of Japan Indo-China Economic Agreement.
(C. in C. China, 02552/14, to Admty.)

America & West Indies

BULOLO
ASTURIAS

Admty. 1253B/10. Request early reply as to when BULOLO and ASTURIUS are to be expected. Docking details request are also urgently required. (B.A.R.M., 1059/14 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

U.S. Naval Aircraft, Liaison.

Piarco 1442Q/13 (N.T. in W.R.) Request you will approach U.S. Authorities with view to obtaining their concurrence Suggest that object of visit should be "To study U.S. methods of operating naval aircraft" and that officers might be attached for a period to aircraft carriers operating from Bermuda. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1201Q/14 to N.A.Washington)

Adm. Lais

Admty. 1500/10. Passages arranged in EXCALIBUR sailed 12/5 at total cost of 1050 dollars American. Admiral Lais had no funds so I had to order passages at Admiralty expense. Request covering approval. (Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1208Q/14 to Admty.)

MONTCLARE
BULOLO
ALUANIA
ASTURIAS

Your 2002B/6. Ships can be taken at Simpson Yard Bathlehem Steel Co. Boston Mass. Job Nos. MONTCLARE 118, BULOLO 119, ALUANIA 120, ASTURIAS 121. (Washington, 0318/14 to Admty.)

VAN KINSBERGEN

Your 1338B/13 (N.T. in W.D.) Position is that elimination of enemy shipping has enabled me to employ available ships in a more offensive manner. Two groups have been formed to patrol in central North Atlantic with the object of intercepting raiders and supply ships, one group consists of a "D" class cruiser and oiler and the other of VAN KINSBERGEN and PRINCE DAVID. Advantage is being taken

/of reconnaissance..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

VAN KINSBERGEN -Contd.

of reconnaissance provided by American (? and other) forces. Under these circumstances I am most reluctant to release VAN KINSBERGEN for service mentioned in your 1507B/10 which I suggest is uneconomical use of a fine little ship. If it is decided to remove her, I consider she should be relieved by a vessel of at least similar strength. (C. in C. A.W.I., 10010/14 to Admty.)

U.S. Forces Newfoundland & Nova Scotia.

U.S. Naval Attache has been advised that beginning 16/5 2 plane tenders and 4 destroyers will be based at Argentina, Newfoundland. On or about 18/5 a squadron of patrol planes will pass along east coast Nova Scotia en route for Argentina but clear of territorial waters. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 16042/14 to C.O.A.C. Halifax)

H.X. and S.C. Convoys.

Your 1254/30/4. Bunker requirements. The following guiding principle has been agreed by Admiralty and Ministry of War Transport (begins) Masters of ships in H.X. and S.C. convoys should be informed or estimated distance of route and speed of convoy and instructed that in addition to the normal safety margin they should allow for an extra distance of 300 miles for possible rerouteing at sea. (ends). Following is now general policy
2. (a) Diesel tramps should arrive at U.K. destination with sufficient oil for a further 5,000 miles voyage.
(b) Diesel liners and all oil fired liners and tramps should arrive at U.K. destination with sufficient oil for return voyage to North American port.
(c) It is of great importance to bring in even small quantities of oil, therefore subject to foregoing wherever maximum cargo carrying capacity is not prejudiced ships in (a) and (b) should bunker to maximum capacity.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1917B/14 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

/Sydney.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Sydney and Bermuda Convoys.

Your 2049Z/9. Difficulties are appreciated but alternative (A) is undesirable for the reason you state and (B) is umpracticable owing to inadequate numbers of escorts available. Considered that risk of collision should besmall if Commodore of each section are instructed not to effect a junction in thick weather. If considered desirable D/F procedure between groups could be instituted but this would involve breaking W/T silence. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2022B/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

Australia

Minesweepers construction.

Following is position regarding first 10 A.M.S. built or building for Admty. BATHURST and LISMORE now at Singapore. GOULBURN and BURNIE temporarily attached TO 20th MSF. BENDIGO completes in May. RARNBROUGH completes in June. BALLARAT TOOWOOMBA complete in July. WMYALIA completes in August. KALGOORLIE completes October. Request decision as to proposed destination of Admty. AM.S. First M.T.B. A.M.S. for Commonwealth INTHGOW and KATOOMBA complete in June and July. (A.C.N.B., 0317Z /14 to Admty.)

U.S. 11.
QUEEN ELIZABETH
ILE DE FRANCE

Your 2127/10. Consider docking advisable in view of S.S.T.O. Egypt's 2011C/7. Refer my 0938Z/10. Anticipate if docking is limited to 10 days use of ILE DE FRANCE would delay convoy four days. Anticipate sailing date 21/6 from Sydney. (A.C.N.B. 0347Z/14 to D. of S.T.)

Greek Crews Morale.

From recent visit at least 4 Greek vessels at Fremantle, S.O. (I) Fremantle has observed a definitely changed demeanor of crew following upon German occupation of Greece, reluctance to sail to Europe, desire for discharge in Australia, marked decline in enthusiasm for war. Reports from Australian sources point desirability of Greek vessels being taken over by Ministry of Shipping. (D.N.I., Melbourne 1351Z/14 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE CLOUD
(Torpedoed 9/5)

Your 2130B/13. EMPIRE CLOUD was in 60° 23' N., 31° 34' W. at 1100/10 drifting 110° at 1½ knots. ST. APOLLO is standing by. (C. in C. W.A., 0209B/14 to ANEMONE) EMPIRE CLOUD taken in tow for North Channel by THAMES in 059° 32' N., 028° 44' W. at 1000/14 towing speed 6 knots. ST. APOLLO escorting. Condition of EMPIRE CLOUD entirely satisfactory for towing at full speed. Engine rooms and after holds flooded but ship riding high in water. Am proceeding to meet H.X. 124 ST. APOLLO requests destination of EMPIRE CLOUD. (ANEMONE 1100B/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

SALOPIAN
(Torpedoed 13/5)

Detach one Destroyer to assist AMAZON in search for survivors of SALOPIAN torpedoed and abandoned in 56° 43' N., 38° 57' W., at 1600 Z/13. Report name of ship detached. (C. in C. W.A., 0957B/14 to D. 3.)
My 1600Z/13 your 0957B/14 and 1003B/14. Since 2200Z/13 have searched area bound by following positions 057° 25' N., 037° 55' W., 056° 48' N., 039° 00' W., 056° 23'N 039° 00' W., 056° 23' N., 037° 55' W. Area south of latitude 056° 43' N., was searched during dark. Easterly set one knot experienced throughout 13th. According to intercepted distress message referred to in my 1600Z/13 A.M.C. was torpedoed at 0630Z/13. Have just sufficie ent fuel to reach Reykjavik and am returning forthwith. My p.c. and s abe 057° 17' N., 037° 42' W., (?1480 480) 13 knots. (Weather) (AMAZON, 1000Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
S.C. 30 in company with H.X. 124 0900 G.M.T. P.C. & S 060° 30' N., 030° 45' W., 072° 7 knots, 53 ships. CIRCASSIA, 12th escort group Iceland portion less NORTHERN PRIDE, AUBRETIA and NIGELLA in company. One Corvette two trawlers sighted joining 1000. AMAZON detached 1400 13th to investigate 056° 43' N., 038° 57' W. SSSS Armed Merchant Cruiser torpedo transmission from ships boat intercepted message by Commodore H.X. 124. SALOPIAN left SC 30 in 059° 04' N., 038° (? 15') W., at 1825Z/12, proceeding direct route for Halifax. 12th group

/have on board....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SALOPIAN
(Torpedoed 13/5)
-Contd.

have on board survivors 11 from EMPIRE CARIBOU 43 from GANDA. H.M.S. AUBRETIA 26 from ESMOND, H.M.S. NIGELLA 33 from EMPIRE CLOUD. My P.C and S 061° 25' N., 029° 00' W., 045° 12, proceeding to Iceland for fuel. Weather report. (SCIMITAR, 1600Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.,) Your 0957B. My P.C. and S are 058° 00(035° 42' W., X 16 240° 28 knots. (IMPULSIVE 1800B/14 to C. in C. W.A.) My 0957B/14 and 1003B/14. Proceed with your whole force to carry out this search. (C. in C. W.A., 1816B/14 to D. 3.) Request I may be informed under whose orders Captain D. 3 is supposed to be operating. (C. in C. H.F., 2243B/14 to Admty.) Your 2243/14. It is considered that D.3 must work under C. in C. W.A., in order to co-operate with his forces. This should have been made clear by a signal from Admty. (1st Sea Lord. 2354B/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

EASTERN STAR
(Torpedoed 8/5)
GREGALIA
(Torpedoed 9/5)
AELYBRYN
(Torpedoed 10/5)
All in O.B. 318.

Norwegian EASTERN STAR, 5658 tons, chartered Cosmopolitan Line, New York, torpedoed and sunk in 061° 29' N., 024° 12' W., at 2120Z/8/5. All C.B.'s seen to sink in weighted bags. No casualties. GREGALIA 5802, torpedoed and sunk 1338Z/9/5 in 060° 34' N., 032° 37' W. Masters C.B's sunk in iron chest, C.B's from W/T office in weighted bags. No casualties. AELYBRYN 4986, torpedoed 0450Z/10/5 in 059° 21' N., 035° 21' W., all C.B's dumped overboard in 2 hamper bags and seen to sink. S. Johnson, Jamaican, killed. (N.O.I.C., Iceland, 1147/14 to Admty.)

FERNLANE
(Torpedoed 7/5)

Norwegian Motorship FERNLANE, 0815 G.M.T./7 010° 02' N., 020° 17' W., approx. Submarine. Vessel sunk by three torpedoes, no casualties, all passengers and crew saved. Large submarine light

/grey....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

FERNLANE (Torpedoed 7/5) -Contd.	grey colour freshly painted two guns on deck. All C.B's and documents thrown overboard in weighted bag. (V. Consul, Bissau, 1148/14 to Admty.)
SOMERSBY (Torpedoed 13/5)	British 5170 tons. G.M.T. 1330 P.C. & S 60° 28' N., 19° 25' W. 102° 8 knots with 6 ships of Convoy S.C. 30. MARIKA PROTOPAPA joined today has on board all officers and men of SOMERSBY torpedoed 13th a.m. 60° 39' N., 26° 13' W. submarine believed Italian of BARBARIGO class. Request additional escort. (NORTHERN PRIDE, 1331/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
Unknown Ship	Detach one Corvette to proceed to assist unknown ship reported by aircraft on fire and sinking in 54° 50' N., 13° 30' W. Corvette report own name and position of convoy when well clear of convoy. (C. in C. W.A., 1426B/14 to VANQUISHER)
MANCHESTER PORT (escaped)	Intercepted at 1427 G.M.T. SSSS 54.38 N., 20.59 W. MANCHESTER PORT chased by submarine 1426/14. (Port Patrick Radio, 1428/14N, to Navycharge, Greenock, Valentia W/T 1429/14) SSSS MANCHESTER PORT 54.38 N., 21.00 chased, steering 050° (Portishead Radio, 1439/14, Port Patrick Radio, 1443/14) Being chased by Submarine position now 54.46 N., 20.36 W steering 058°. (MANCHESTER PORT, 1530/14) Chased, position now 54.49 N., 20.16 W steering 095°. (Valentia Radio, 1635/14 Port Patrick Radio, 1636/14) Chased position now 54 - 39 N., 19 - 58 W steering 160°. (Cleethorpes Radio, 1735A/14 Pt. Patrick Radio, 1737/14) Submarine still following position now 54.26 N., 19.58 W., steering 215° (Liverpool W/T, 1837/14 T.O.R. 2042/14) Submarine still following, position now 54 -17 N., 20-16 W., steering 270° (Plymouth W/T, 1934/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.5.1941.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0312 — Sighted U-Boat on surface in 061° 56' N., 026° 00' W. (CHELSEA, 0312B/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1412B/14, F.O.S. 1528/14)

General situation estimated at 1100/14 was not substantially changed, but a U-Boat is now operating so far west as 1050 miles W. of Barra Head. (D.S. 617, 14/5)

1630 — Sighted submarine on surface in 058° 15' N., 035° 10' W., (IMPULSIVE, 1630B/14 to C. in C. W.A.) (C. in C. W.A., 2121B/14 to W.A.)
IMPULSIVE's 1639B/14 (1630B/14?) Purport of my 1816B/14 (AMAZON's search for survivors of SALOPIAN) may be delayed at your discretion. (C. in C. W.A. 2247B/14 to IMPULSIVE, D.3.)

Submarines Attacked

By VISENDA — Have attacked (enemy) S/M position 062° 16' 013° 28' dead reckoning.
(VISENDA 0715/14 to S.O.T.N.P.)
Position 062° 06' 013° 21' dropped 5 pattern on positive sub contact. Latter 3 produced quantity air bubbles. No further contact since 1305. All depth charges expended. Remaining in vicinity with VISENDA. (NORTHERN PRINCESS, 1415B/14 to S.O.T.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled on account of the weather.

Aircraft of Bomber Command this afternoon attacked a convoy of 5 merchant vessels escorted by 3 Flak ships about 20 miles north of Lenqeoog, and claim to have sunk 3 ships of 5000, 4000 and 1600 tons respectively.

Enemy Air Operations.

M.T.B. 50 was bombed and damaged this afternoon near C. Buoy, and was towed to Dover.

Convoy F. C. 20 was bombed at 1058 off Harwich No damgge is reported.

Patrol vessel PERSPECTIVE, anchored in Humber entrance shot down an enemy aircraft at 0023 today.

It is reported that S.S. BEBINGTON was damaged during air raid on Birkenhead today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off St. Catherine's Point, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Falmouth and the East coast.

Mediterranean.

Danger areas extended.

Owing to new German activities in the Eastern Mediterranean H.M. Govt. have decided to give notice that the limits of the areas in the Mediterranean, declared dangerous to shipping in February and April last are extended to include all waters to the eastward of a line drawn from Ras El Kanais (on the coast of Egypt) to a point 5 miles 180° from Cape Khelidonia (Turkey), with the exception of Turkish Territorial waters.

Air Reconnaissance.

An important signal regarding air reconnaissance in the Mediterranean was made by C. in C. Med. at 1807C today.

Malta

About 20 aircraft operating singly, attacked Malta between 2230/14 and 0315/15. No naval or R.A.F. damage was caused. Raids were carried out again both this morning and this afternoon and damage was caused at Luqa.

Libya

3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

Our troops captured Sollum and other places today. M.O.I.C. has proceeded to Sollum.

Tobruk was bombed last night and today but no damage or casualties were caused.

/Cyprus.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Cyprus. — Nicosia and other places were bombed today by 8 Italian aircraft. No Service damage or casualties occurred.

Greek Fleet. — Greek destroyers are now operating as local escort from Alexandria and Greek s/m's are exercising with their own T.B's.

East Indies.

Iraq. — A mine watching organisation is to be set up for the Shatt-el-Arab.

America & West Indies.

Sabotage is suspected in S.S. BUTESHIRE (British), which is on fire at Buenos Aires.

New Zealand.

PURIRI (minesweeper) is reported lost whilst engaged in sweeping the enemy minefield laid in Maureki Gulf in June last.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Pending further experience, C. in C. W.A. has decided to vary reguar air escort of individual convoys with sweeps, searches and the operation of air striking force based on U-boat sightings and intelligence. Air escorts in low visibility and in darkness, except on moonlight nights, will be abolished.

N.W. Approaches. — Two submarines were attacked this evening first by aircraft and subsequently by destroyers and corvettes in the neighbourhood of Convoy O.B. 321, 300 miles west of Blacksod Bay.

South Atlantic. — S.S. BENVENUE reported being torpedoed at 2030 G.M.T. in 4° 27' N. 18° 25' W.

East Indies. — CANBERRA at 2118Z today read a corrupt submarine distress message.

MOST SECRET.

War.Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Air Escort of Convoys.

Pending further experience it has been decided to vary regular air escort of individual convoys with sweeps, searches, and the operation of air striking force based on U-Boat sightings and intelligence.
2. Air escorts in low visibility and in darkness except on moonlight nights will be abolished.
3. N.C.S.Officers are to inform Masters of above modification orders re air escorts at night.
(C. in C. W.A. 0055B/15).

SYRINGA
HORLY
ST. MELANTE
RUNSWICK BAY.

My 1753D/6. These vessels will form 100th M/S Group.
(D.M.S. 1219B/15).

Conference on Fighter Protection for shipping.

A.M. 0029B/14. Meeting with the R.A.F. will be held in Air Ministry at 1030/23.
2. C. in C. Fighter Command will preside.
(D.O.D. H. 1323B/15).

Trawler Division I.

Admiralty 1257/13 and your 1526B/14.
Following trawlers detailed for Foreign service from June 2nd INDIAN STAR, SPHENE, LORNULD, DRANGEY.
Two of those trawlers have been taken from Irish Sea escort force, and must be replaced by trawlers from Division 1 which will reduce their number to 18, which will not be sufficient to provide escortfor W.N.- E.C. convoys running to their normal schedule. Request therefore that COVENTRY CITY, ST. CATHAN and LE TIGER, which have been allocated to Belfast, may join Division I as soon as possible, otherwise it will probably be necessary to withdraw trawlers from Londonderry and Greenock Escort Groups which is not desirable.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1628B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RODNEY. — My 1456B/14 RODNEY will not now arrived at Greenock before p.m. 18th.
(C. in C. H.F. 1314B/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

REPULSE
ARGUS. — Arrived REPULSE, ARGUS, OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, and EMPRESS OF JAPAN.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550B/15)

SPRINGTIDE
SPRINGDALE
CORBRAE. — At 1854/9.
When ready for sea on completion of degaussing trials request you will sail and route SPRINGTIDE, SPRINGDALE and CORBRAE in company to Freetown.
CORBRAE is allocated to C. in C. S.A.
SPRINGTIDE and SPRINGDALE are allocated to C. in C. China.
(A.C.N.S. F 1800B/15).

FARNDALE.
STELLA PEGASSI.
FROYEN. — Arrived Scapa from Faeroes.
(A.C.O.S. 2231/15).

Operations.

3rd. D.F. — Operate as striking force under C. in C. W.A.
(C. in C. H.F. 0122B/15 to Capt. D.3).

Patrols. — C. in C. W.A. 1637B/14. Carry out A/S sweep approx on Meridian 20° W as far as 56° N thence to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1012B/15 to TARTAR).

On completion of working up at Holy Loch about 30/5 intend that RUBIS should carry out a short working up Patrol before embarking on a minelaying programme. It is proposed that this Patrol should be carried out in the area between latitudes 49° 20' N and 50° 40' N and between longitudes 11° W and 14° W. with the object of intercepting U Boats, and that she should proceed to the area escorted as far as 10° W and thence by West coast of Ireland.
(F.O.S. 1042/15).

Your 1650/14.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (contd).

Your 1650/14. Intend sailing M.L.'s 146 (S.O.), 152, and 103 at 2015 to-day arriving south Shipwash Buoy at 2115, 53 Buoy at 2215, then patrolling along Q.Z.3.117 M.L.103 is to part company and proceed from South Falls Buoy at dawn to Dover. M.L's 146 and 152 are to return to Harwich arriving 52 buoy at 0445. E.T.A. Harwich 0615 Request Fighter protection from 2015/16 to dark and again from Dawn to 0615/15. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1225B/15 to C. in C. Nore). Departure M.L. 146 & 152 - 103. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2000B/15).

NORFOLK is to sail from Scapa p.m./17 and proceed to Hval Fiord. NORFOLK and SUFFOLK are to maintain the Denmark Straits patrol in accordance with paragraph (one) of my 1546/2. (C. in C. H.F. 1235B/15).

BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER are to be sailed a.m. 18th. to patrol between H.P. line T.R.34 and the South Coast Iceland (C). It is anticipated they will leave patrol on 26/5. NIGERIA and KENYA are to leave patrol at 1200/18 and return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1606B/15).

British Air Operations.

Caution to fighter pilots.

Reference C. in C., Nore 1451B/12, request action may be taken as suggested by C. in C. Nore. (D. of L.D. 1240B/15 to Air Ministry.)

701 Sqdn.

Under consideration to disband number 701 Squadron in view of urgent need for WALRUS aircraft for ship-borne duties. Request your views. (5th S.L. 1400B/15).

Escort for B.S.56.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations. (contd).

Escort for B.S.56

Close escort will be provided by one Blenheim fighter from 0530 to 1430 and A/S escort by one Blenheim bomber from 1430 to dusk tomorrow Friday.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1700/15 to TEVIOT BANK).

3 M/Vs claimed sunk.

Day 14, and night 14/15 May. All operations cancelled owing to unfavourable weather conditions. Day 15 3 vessels of a Convoy are claimed as destroyed totalling some 11,000 gross tons. A. 5,000 ton M/V attacked by two aircraft received two direct hits amidships and others on the stern. A 4,000 ton heavily laden M/V attacked by three a/c received four direct hits.
A 1,600 ton heavily laden M/V was attacked by one a/c and seen later emitting large volumes of brown and grey smoke. These three ships are claimed as total losses.
(H.Q.B.C. 2305/15).

Enemy Air Activity.

JESSIE MAERSK (Bombed 14/5).

Received at 2221 G.M.T. from JESSIE MAERSK Begins:- Think two men hit with machine gun bullets otherwise O.K. Not being attacked at moment. Don't know if coming back.
(Scapa W/T 0022/15).

M.A. WEST (Bombed 14/5).

(Examination Vessel). My 1504B/14. Reported position of wreck of M.A. WEST 52° 34' N 1° 45' 30" E.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0118B/15).

FORT RONA.

(Trawler) Reports when steaming in convoy with two other Trawlers at 0030/13th. 15 miles W.S.W. of Bardsey Island being sunk by near bomb misses from enemy plane. No casualties. Both machine guns salved.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0950/15).

Convoy E.C. Even.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.(contd).

Convoy E.C. Even.

Enemy bombing convoy MIGHT my position 51° 51' N 1° 36' E. course 046° speed 8 knots.
(Even E.C. Convoy., 1058/15).
Fighters have been sent to assist Convoy MIGHT.
(More W/T 1125B/15).

Enemy Radiator off Brixham.

M.O.I.C. Dartmouth reports that a brand new radiator covered with oil, from an ME 109, was picked up in trawl on 14th May 15 miles S.E. of Brixham. As this was the type of aeroplane used in the attack on Brixham p.m. 11th it is thought that one of these must have been shot down.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1508/15).

M.T.B. 50 damaged.

My 1634B. M.T.B. 50 arrived Dover in tow of yacht CHICO at 2025. At 1511 in vicinity of C one buoy two Dorniers carried out shallow dive attacks one on each ship, with bombs and machine guns. Five bombs dropped by each aircraft. Near misses caused extensive damage to all engines of M.T.B.50. No damage to CHICO and no casualties in either case. Enemy aircraft engaged by CHICO and tracer seen to enter aircraft but apparently without effect.
(V.A. Dover 2131B/15).

Long range enemy aircraft operating in your vicinity. Attack may be expected on O.B.321 or O.B.322.
(D.D.I.C. 2340B/15 to S.L.A. W.A.)

DAN-Y-BRYN (British,5117 tons)
CASTILIAN (British 3057 tons)
PRINCE RUPERT CITY (British 4749 tons.)

Damaged before 13/5 in Air-Raids on Hull.
(D.S. No. 618).

DENCADE

(Tug) Damaged in Air-Raid on Brixham, before 10/5.
(D.S. no 618).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation B.S.56.	Departures TEVIOTBANK, PLOVER, and CATTISTOCK in company at 0730. E.T.A. Tyne 1915/15. (F.O. Number 0801B/15). TEVIOTBANK, PLOVER and CATTISTOCK arrived.
Swansea.	Red mine exploded single "L" 070° 2 miles 2 cables from Mumbles Head Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1050/15).
Milford Haven.	My 1423/14. One ground mine detonated simultaneously with casualty MINICOY in position 092° St. Ann's Head Light 14 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1102/15).
Tyne.	At 1040/15 one Mine exploded by S.A. gear. Details. (P.M/S North Shields 1220/15).
MINICOY and R.A.F. Launch 316.	F.O.i/c Milford Haven 1423/14. Request you will order an early inquiry on the loss of these vessels and on the instructions issued and route ordered for the passage of R.A.F. Launch 316. (V.C.N.S. 1401B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
	Motor Boat MV 3516 proceeding Barry to Aberporth 14/5 wrecked by mine 14/5 off Milford Haven. Missing three. Rescued uninjured one. Names. (R.A.F. Cardiff, 1745/15).
Brightlingsea.	Brightlingsea reports:- Mine exploded by shrimpers trawl at 0939/15 in about 51° 45' N 1° 04'.5 E. Damage to shrimpers small boat. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1406B/15).
Clyde.	May 16th. The river will be closed between Princes Pier and Dunglass between 0600 and 1100. The River will be open to traffic both ways after 1100 with the following restrictions (F.O. I.C. Glasgow. 1641A/15).

Operations. B.S.57.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Operations B.S.57 to B.S.60

Proposals contained in your No. 2249/0528A/15 of 13/5 are concurred in.
Request you will issue orders for the operations, allocating short titles B.S.57 to B.S.60 inclusive.
(V.C.N.S. 1924B/15 to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat.

Possible E boat reported vicinity of number 5 buoy at 0015B. (C in C. Nore 0044/15)

Brest.

Photographs of Brest at 1400/15 show no change.
(D.D.I.C. 1618B/15).

Suspected sabotage.

Suspected sabotage to experimental tail cable laid in East Gate near Rame Head, believed committed since 16/8/40.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1635/15).

Miscellaneous.

Kinnaird Head Light House.

Your 0926/28/4. Kinnaird Head Light House has now been camouflaged.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1158/15 to Admty).

Humber proposed moving of Light Vessel and Buoys.

Approval is requested to move the Humber L/V and Channel Buoys as follows on account of obstruction of the present channel by wreck of FOWBERRY TOWER.
(F.O. Humber 1650/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.9

My 0335/25/4 ANSELM not now due in U.K. until about 5/6 but will probably still proceed to Avonmouth for discharge and embarkation. TAMAROA due U.K. about 26/5. with frozen meat cargo from New Zealand is now likely to be discharged and prepared for next outward voyage with troops in Avonmouth.
(D. of S.T. 0402B/15 to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth).

.W.S.8B.

My 0746/14. Following slight modifications of embarkation arrangements for W.S.8B. are proposed.
(D.S.T. 0447B/15 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland).
Your C746B/14. F.16 and F.18 will embark K.G.V. If baggage for Gourock ships does not arrive earlier 48 hours in advance cannot guarantee date can be maintained, vide my 1205B/11.
(P.S.T.O. West Scotland. 1015B/15 to D. of S.T)
A.M. 2256B/10. Route for W.S.8B.
(D.O.D.(H) 1552B/15 to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.)

H.G.59

Regret congratulatory message was sent to you in error.
(C. in C. W.A., 1451/15 to Vice-Adm. Dawson).
Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all ships of your convoy H.G.59.
(C. in C. W.A. 1456/15 to Vice-Adm. Willam.)

H.X.123

Congratulations on bringing to U.K. your convoy H.X.123 with such success.
(C. in C. W.A. 1509/15 to Rear Adm. H.H. Rogers).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BROADWAY. Arrived BROADWAY with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0920B/15).

GOATFELL. Have developed engine trouble. Intend to proceed to anchorage Southend keeping tug in attendance until anchored. Anticipate proceeding early tomorrow.
(GOATFELL 1850/15).

CARNATION My 1241A/3/5. Consider trouble experienced is more annoyance than defect. Am sailing ship to base 15/6 for further experience under running conditions.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1814/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

VELOX	Departure 2310 VELOX delayed by defects (route) to Freetown or as ordered by C. in C. S.A. E.T.A. Freetown 0700Z + 1/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 0028B/15 to Admty).
Force H.	Intend RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, and SHEFFIELD proceed to sea p.m./16 to simulate operation to eastward and to carry out exercises returning p.m./17. (S.O. Force H., 0924/15 to Admty).
Dutch S/Ms	Your 1625A/14 approved. (F.O. (S) 1032B/15 to Capt (S) 8).
PANDORA REGENT	Do not cross Meridian 002° W until after 1600A/17. Force H accompanied by aircraft are exercising west of 002° W during 16th and 17th. Report p.c. & s. and E.T.A. Gibraltar on crossing Meridian 000° 00' (F.O.C.N.A. 1210A/15 to PANDORA, REGENT).
B.D. Vessels calling Azores.	Boom Defence Vessels JENNET, PUNNET, BOWNET, RENNET, LUMINARY and S.S. FOREMOST 101 are expected to arrive Fayal (Azores) 22/5. Request arrangements to provide 600 tons of coal. FOREMOST 101 may require about 200 tons oil fuel for which she should call at Ponta Delgada. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1313B/15 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).
REGINA	My 1253/13 Cartagena now reports these men Norwegians from Norwegian Tanker seized by French in Algiers. (N.A. Madrid 1901/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

"R" Reports NEVADA & CERAMIO.

My 1215/9. Report now received from Master that coded cancellation was broadcast to V.P.U. on 600 metres at 1140 and on 36 metres at 1230 and repeated to G.K.U. on 36 metres at 1240 but no answers received.
(C. in C. S.A. 1205Z/15 to Admty).

Spanish Ships suspected of reports to U/Bs.

British CITY OF VENICE's noon position 1/5 011° 30' N. 027° 31' W. During forenoon Spanish MENDILINE ship followed his zigzagging astern with apparent intention of ascertaining CITY OF VENICE's courses. At 1630 G.M.T./1 EAKP (AXPE-MENDI) made his own position to EAAQ (ALTUNA-MENDI) as 008° 53' N. 027° 52' W no acknowledgment from latter ship. Master of opinion Spanish ships are reporting sighting to U-Boats.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1555/15 to Admty).

German whale catchers.

Masters of British and allied merchant vessels should be informed confidentially some German manned whale catchers are at large and may be co-operating with armed merchant raiders in South Atlantic. Such vessels met with on ocean routes should be treated with suspicion and the sighting should be reported to Naval Authorities at next port of call.
(C. in C. S.A., 1606N/15 to S.O.I's).

Reports of Southbound ships.

Your 2154/21/3. Would like earlier warning of ships entering Station. Propose that they be reported crossing 24° N instead of 20° N.
(C. in C. S.A. 1508N/15 to Admty).

S.L.75

Request information whether cruiser escort is being provided for S.L.75.
(C. in C. S.A., 1647N/15 to Admty).

CUMBERLAND

CUMBERLAND wearing flag R.A. R.A.S.A.D. arrived Buenos Ayres 1730 G.M.T./15 and leaves for patrol 1730 G.M.T./17.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1735Z/15).

Raider 3/5.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Raider 3/5.

A vessel closely resembling German HOENFELS and German raider TAMESIS alias ATLANTIS (No. 16) was sighted by S.S. RARANGA at 1023Z/3 in 24.45 S., 24.29 W. (Details). My 0141N/8/4 to S.A. Squadron only may refer.
(C. in C. S.A. 1909N/15 to Admty).

Protection of Shipping in Freetown.

Reply to Admty 1236/10.
(C. in C. S.A. 1917N/15) See Operations Volume.

BUTESHIRE sabotage.

British on fire aft commenced in No. 5 lower hold has spread to no. 4., sabotage suspected at Jamaica.
(D.E.M.S. Officer Buenos Aires, 2258/15 to Admty).

EAGLE
NELSON.

My 1635B/10 and your 1317N/14. Not now essential for EAGLE and NELSON to reach Freetown by 23/5. EAGLE may boiler clean on arrival at Freetown.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2349B/15 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Landing Craft programme.

A.T. 1517/17/3 is revised as follows.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0124B/15 to C. in C. Med).
See Lion Copy.

Situation Report 26.

V.A.1 in QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM, NAIAD, PHOEBE, PERTH, and 7 destroyers left Alexandria p.m./14 to operate S. and W. of Crete. Convoy A.S.31 leaving Suda Bay tonight 14th for Alexandria with personnel not required, DIDO CALCUTTA and 4 destroyers escorting. Crete. A.A. guns of M.N.B.D.O. are now in action at Suda Bay and Maleme and very shortly at Heraklion.

Western Desert.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation Report 26. (contd).	Western Desert. Bombardment of Derna aerodrome by 7th C.S. night 13th/14th cancelled apparently due to weather. Ships not yet returned GNAT bombarded Gazala successfully R.A.F. and F.A.A. bombed W/D aerodromes heavily night 13th/14th. Work at Tobruk hampered by enemy battery which covers entrance to harbour. GNAT dealing with it today. Salvage commenced of LADYBIRD whose bow is still afloat, APHIS rejoined inshore squadron p.m./14. Canal Area. Situation as in S.B.N.O. Canal Area 1945/13. (C. in C. Med., 0021C/15 to Admty).
MAURO CROCE (Italian).	Departure 15/5 Barcelona for Genoa. (Barcelona 0331/15.
DALESMAN (bombed 14/5).	Dive bombed aft. No casualties. (S.T.O. Suda Bay 0900C/15) See also 1210/15
CORDELIA & ITHAKA. & YALOVA.	My 1111/14. First ship entered Bosphorus 1100/14 last two 1800/14 all for Aegean. (Capt. S.1. 0941C/15 to RORQUAL). My 1731/14. Ships entered Bosphorus 14/4 (?14/5) for (?Ancona or Trieste). Local Authorities informed. (S.O.(I) Med., 1211C/15 to Admty).
Suez Canal.	Intend to resume traffic in canal for ships urgently required to move on 17/5. Mines in northern sector will then be over nine days old and in centre sector over six. Ships will be (?) preceded by LL and S/A sweepers and tug will be standing by. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1031C/15 to Admty etc).
A.S.31 Greek Escort.	Request you will arrange 3 Greek destroyers to R.V. with convoy A.S.31 at 0600/16 to relieve British destroyers and escort convoy to Port Said. STUART, VENDETTA, ISIS to return with despatch to Alexandria on relief. (C. in C. Med., 1103C/15 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)

DI30

DIDO and CALCUTTA....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd)

DIDO
CALCUTTA.

DIDO and CULCUTTA are to part company with convoy at 2100/15 and proceed independently at best speed to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1105/15 to DIDO.)

Benghazi bombed.

Operational Summary No. 339 up to 1200 hours 15/5.
Night 12/13. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi, bombs bursting on railway and buildings near Military Headquarters etc. 2small ships seen anchored outside harbour. Only sunken ships seen in harbour.

Tobruk Raid

Day 14/5.
25 JU. 87's dive bombed Southern side harbour and distilleryTobruk. No damage or casualties. Several JU 87's damaged by A.A. fire. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1106/15).

Shipping in Black Sea Ports.

Ref. my 1905/12 Para (a) correction. For two Italian 7700 read three Italian 10,300 tons.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1110/15 to Admty).

KANDAHAR

Take NUBIAN, KINGSTON, JUNO, COVENTRY under your orders. Sail at 2000/15 and proceed at speed of advance 15 knots on course 330° until 0800/16. DIDO will sail to overtake you as early as possible am./16.
(C. in C. Med., 1147/15 to KANDAHAR).

Air damage, Suda Bay, DALESMAN LOGICIAN.

NIEUW ZEELAND sailed p.m./14 with 1880 personnel. LOSSIEBANK sailed p.m./14 with 1886 personnel. DALESMAN badly bomb-damaged direct hit No.5 hold. Aground aft. Engine room flooded. Endeavouring to discharge Nos. 1,2 and 3. Fear ship total loss. LOGICIAN slightly damaged by near miss. Dynamo cylinder head, bilge and tank line fracture, ship leaking slightly into after hold. Discharging as quickly as possible.
(S.T.O. Suda Bay, 1210C/15 to D.S.T.London).

Italian PIER LUIGI.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Italian PIER LUIGI	2,600 tons passed Istanbul 130 C. hours for Dedeagatch. Estimated speed ?8½. Ship half loaded. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1309/15).
Soviet Ships.	Press message from Beyoglu, Pera, states Soviet has chartered 8 Black Sea ships totalling 20,000 tons, to Germany and that goods are already being transported to Southern Italy via Odessa, Constanza, Varna, the Bosporous, the Dardenelles, and the Corinth Canal to Italy. (D.S. 618, 15/5).
Greek Naval Units.	Morale and proposed employment. (C. in C. Med., 1329C/15) See Lion Copy.
R.A.(D) Med.	My 1147C/15. Request you will transfer your Flag to DIDO and proceed as soon as possible to join KANDAHAR'S Force. Hoped that DIDO will be able to sail at about 0400 - 0500/16. If no developments have taken place by 1000/16 escort should turn back to join you and you should then proceed to pass Kaso Strait 2300/16 unless otherwise ordered. COVENTRY should be detached to be off Candia at 0530/17 (C. in C. Med., 1537C/15 to R.A.(D) Med).
Malta Air Raids.	Report Malta up to 1600 hours 15/5. Times G.M.T. Night 14/15, 2230 to 0315 hours 4 air alarms by approx 20 aircraft operating singly. Visibility poor, majority of bombs in sea, others Valletta, Luqa and Zabbar. R.A.F. and naval damage nil. No claims by guns or aircraft. Day 15/5. Morning and afternoon raid by 15 to 20 109's in each case some dropping bombs. Target Luqa. (Aircraft damaged). Minor damage to civilian property no casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1610/15).
Routes for S/Ms	Cancel my 1445/14/4 route in future will be made according to circumstances. (V.A. Malta 1718B/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

UPHOLDER CACHALOT.....

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean.(contd).

UPHOLDER CACHALOT.	UPHOLDER leaves Malta p.m./15 through 035° 51' 015° 15' for area M 036° 40' 015° 10' - 000° 30 - 50. C. in C. Med., 0940/4 CACHALOT leaves Malta P.M./16 through 035° 20 ' 014° 12' and 033° 30' 025° 00' thence as ordered by you. (S.O.S/Ms Malta 1719B/15 to Capt. (S)1).
M.L's for Candia.	My 1156/14. Send M.L's to CANDIA as A/S protection during disembarkation. (C. in C. Med., 1723/15 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).
PHOEBE	After dark report your E.T.A. and nature of damage. (C. in C. Med., 1725/15 to PHOEBE).
Turkey.	Interview of Ad. Kelly with Gen. Asim Gunduz. (N.A. Angora, 1731/15)(See Lion Copy).
Turkish Ferry boats.	N.A. Angora 1801/15. See Mediterranean Volume.
Air Reconnaissance.	Situation owing to enemy long range fighters in Greece and Sicily. Need for reconnaissance aircraft. (C. in C. Med., 1807C/15 to Admty) See Mediterranean Volume.
Turkish S/Ms	Turkish Govt. finally approve (a) S/Ms to be taker over in U.K. and necessary personnel to be sent to U.K. (b) S/Ms will fly Turkish flag on passage. Every effort is being made to hasten departure of crews. (N.A. Ankara 1824/15 to Admty).
German A/Cs.	My 1415/14 German aircraft presumably same as left today for Bucharest with four passengers. (NSO.I) Istanbul 1835/15).

RORQUAL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (contd).

RORQUAL	Memorandum S.O.12 para 5, amend to read leave patrol to arrive Alexandria 23/5. (Capt. S.1. 1839C/15 to RORQUAL).
Danger Zone.	Broadcast of navigational warning, E of a line drawn from Ras-el-Kanais in a direction 24° to 3 miles 180°from Cape Kheledonia, Turkey. (Head of M., 2247B/15 to C. in C. Med). See Lion Copy.
SALVIA Patrol.	Weather unsuitbale for M.L's. SALVIA carrying out A/S patrol off Candia from 2200 until completion of the operation. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1950C/15 to C. in C. Med).
Situation Report No. 27.	Fleet movements as in my 1321/15. 7th C.S. attacked by 21 JU 88 1700/13 shot down two in flames and damaged two more. No damage to ships and attack not pressed home. 7th C.S. bombardment night 13/14 abandoned due to failure of communication with spotting aircraft. Two. Western desert. Gulf of Sollum having been captured by army, M.O.I.C. proceeding there by car. Crete. Suda Bay dive bombed p.m. 14th, DALESMAN hit and beached. Maleme and Candia also heavily bombed and machine gunned. Ten enemy aircraft shot down and two probables during 24 hours to 2200/14, two Hurricanes one Fulmar two Gladiators lost. Alexandria. Greek destroyers are now operating as local escort from Alexandria and Greek submarines are exercising with their own T.B.D.'s. Unloading "TIGER" convoy continues satisfactorily. (C. in C. Med., 2355C/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ROVER — Your 1048/6. Refit can be undertaken at Bombay if spare battery supplied from Singapore (C. in C. E.I. 0626Z/15 to C. in C. Med).

INDRAPOERA — Your 0300B/8 INDRAPOERA sailed 0700/15 calling Capetown for two days repairs to engines and can arrive Halifax on due date (to embark troops for U.K.)
(S.S.T.O. Durban, 0855B/15 to D. of S.T.)

CLAN BUCHANNAN. — Your 1850B/13 to S.O.(I) Colombo. Agents in Madras also request information required for arrangement of their homeward loading programme. Request I may be informed when agents can be told confidentially.
(C. in C. E.I. 1100Z/15 to Admty) Reply: 1915/18.

Shatt-el-Arab. — Mine watching organisation to be set up.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1108Z/15)
See Operations Volume.

AQUITANIA ILE DE FRANCE. — Port Authorities with both Masters and consider that berthing of these large ships in Colombo during height of S.W. monsoon is attended with grave risks and should be avoided if at all possible. Ends.
(C. in C. E.I. 1230Z/15 to Admty etc).

Action against German Aircraft in Syria. — H.Q. P and T.J. Command Operation Report No. 11 to 1600 14/5. R/C aircraft reported. 1045 having sighted at 0845 at Palmyra aerodrome 2 J.U.90 1 unidentified fighter 4 additional unidentified aircraft being refuelled. Striking force 1 fighter Blenheim, 2 Blenheim bombers, 2 Tomahawk fighters despatched via H 4 and attacked 3 J.U. 1 CR. 42, 2 unidentified biplanes on the ground. No visible results, but considered likely at least 3 aircraft severely damaged. No opposition from the ground or air. No casualties.
All aircraft returned safely. All times G.M.T.(H.Q. Palestine and Transjordon Command, 1310/15, to H.Q., M.E.)

Navicerts, Persian Gulf. — Your 0802/10, yes, but in initial stages Dhows should be treated leniently.
(D.E.W.D. 17553/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Cutters	Departure New York for Halifax H.M.Ships HENNEN WALNEY, and TOTLAND, ex U.S. Coastguard cutters. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0003Z/15 to Admty.)
SURCOUF.	SURCOUF sailed from U.K. 14/5 due position 55° N., 40° W., about 24/5. SURCOUF will patrol within 150 miles of this position proceeding so as to arrive Bermuda 14/6. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1231Q/15 to DIOMEDE.)
PRINCE ROBERT.	To be sailed A.M./16 for Suva to arrive 29/5 for escort in accordance with my 1936Z/13.(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1536Z/15, to C.O.P.C. Esquimalt.)
U.S. Naval Aircraft liaison.	Piarco's 1442/13 Navy Dept., welcome suggestion and would like officers to come to Washington at once. After a period at Navy Dept., arrangements will be made for visits to bases and ships as desired. (N.A. Washington, 1616/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Note:- Mentioned in C. in C.A.W.I.'s 1801Q/14)
ASAMA MARU, suspicious.	Seattle reports A.O. that ASAMA MARU recently arrived in U.S.A. Took circuitous route. On approaching Honolulu proceeded N., then W., then S., to below Honolulu. No reason known for this action. Information whether any suspicious ship was contacted is being sought from passengers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1837Z/15, to Admty., amended 1846Z/16.)
French Fleet.	From Navy Dept., from French Admty., Disposition of French Fleet 14/5. (N.A. Washington, 2352 R/15 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
ILE D'OUESSANT SANANDREA.	Arrival 15/5 French ILE D'OUESSANT. Departure 15/5 Italian SANANDREA Norfolk 16/5. (New York 2212Z/15.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

New Mine-sweepers.

Your 0317/14 please see my 1409/16/4 addressed C. in C. China and repeated to you. Admiralty A.M.3. should be sailed to Singapore on completion accordingly.
(D.M.S. 1748B/15 to A.C.N.B.)

New Zealand.

PURIRI mined sunk.

Regret to report loss of H.M. Minesweeper PURIRI while engaged in sweeping enemy minefield laid in Hauraki Gulf, June, 1940. One Officer and four ratings lost, all belonging to N.Z. Naval Forces.
(N.Z.N.B.0109Z/15 to Admty).
Your 0109Z/15. Request you will announce loss of PURIRI as desired but not how or where loss took place so as not to disclose to the enemy that minefield has been located.
(D.P.D. 1927B/15 to N.Z.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ship Attacked.

MANCHESTER PORT.

Following has been read:
SSSS MANCHESTER PORT 54.20N 22.25W. Submarine sighted. (Port Patrick T.O.R. 0420/15).

SALOPIAN (torpedoed 13/5).

Request Catalina aircraft may assist destroyers searching for survivors of SALOPIAN. Search commences at 1000Z/15 from approx. 057° 03' N 038° 58' W in direction 323° and reciprocal for length of 50 miles. (Capt. D.3. 0813Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).
Your 0813Z/15. Not available 15/5. My 1201Z/15 stands unless you signal to the contrary.
(Catalina, 1606/15 to D.3).
Have recovered 278 survivors in 056o 52' N 040° 10' W. Am proceeding to Hvalfiord (corrupt) for (corrupt) through 060°N 036° west, speed 20 knots.
(IMPULSIVE, 1030B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
Provided you are satisfied there are no further survivors proceed to carry out previous instructions.
(C. in C. W.A. 1324B/15 to D.3).
Request I may be informed as soon as any confirmation of sinking SALOPIAN is received.
(R.A.3 1839P/15 to Admty).

EMPIRE ENDURANCE (torpedoed 20/4).

British WHINNYFOLD 210 tons reported life boat of EMPIRE ENDURANCE found 1530/10 in 060° 00' N 009° 00' W.
(A.C.O.S. 1656/15 to Admty).

BENVENUE

(British 5920 tons, ex O.B.314 for Cape and Bombay). Following has been read;
SSSS 4.27N., 18.25W., BENVENUE torpedoed.
(Freetown W/T 2030/15 de V.P.U.)

S/Ms Reported.

0642

By D/F at 0642/15 G.M.T. position of Italian U-Boat probably homeward bound, was approx 46° N - 47° N., 6° W. This position is an indication of the area only.
(D.D.I.C. 0921B/15).

0722.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0722 — By D/F at 0722/15 G.M.T. Position of Italian U-Boat was 54° - 55° N. 17° - 19° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1010B/15).
My 1010B/15. It is probable that convoy O.B. 321 was reported at 0722/15 G.M.T.and that otherU-Boats have since been informed. (D.D.I.C. 1159B/15 to VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA)
My 1159B/15. D/F Bearing indicate that a second Italian S/M has sighted O.B. 321 at 1111Z/15. (D.D.I.C. 1354B/15 to VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1418B/15).

1630. — Following has been read. From Aircraft. Am over enemy submarine in 54.27. N., 18.40 W. (Liverpool, 1530/15).

Estimate one German U-Boat North of Finisterre en route to Saint Nazaire. (F.O.S. 1556B/15 to SOKUL, TIGRIS, TRIDENT).

2030; — Admiralty message A.F. position 04.27N. 18. 25 W. at 2030Z. (C. in C. S.A., 2000N/15 to G.B.M.S. 6A).

Submarines Attacked.

VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA attacking firm contact in 054° 18' N. 018° 46' W. (VANQUISHER 1715B/15 to C. in C. W.A).
My 1715B/15. 4 patterns dropped on firm contact bombed by aircraft. Lost contact after last pattern, slight oil not from Depth charge observed. Area searched 9 miles by 9 miles. WINCHELSEA remains in vicinity VANQUISHER rejoined convoy. HIBISCUS and RHODODENDRON attacking second contact bombed by second aircraft in 053° 46' N 019° 07' W. (VANQUISHER 2009B/15 to C. in C. W.A).

Following has been read. Am over enemy submarine in position 55.07N., 11.12 W. (Liverpool W/T, 2034/15).

/Submarine.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/Ms Attacked.

Submarine brought surface by aircraft in position 053° 46' N 019° 38' W attacked by HIBISCUS and RHODODENDRON. 5 patterns dropped lost contact after last pattern slight trace of oil on surface. Am rejoining convoy. Search has been carried out in 4 mile circle around point of lost contact. (HIBISCUS, 2126B/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

If circumstances permit act as Striking Force with O.B.321 until noon/16. (C. in C. H.F. 1905B/15 to TARTAR).

Assist RHODODENDRON attacking U-Boat in position 053° 46' N 019° 07' W at 2009B/15 RHODODENDRON inform TARTAR if contact is lost. (C. in C. W.A., 2206B/15 to TARTAR). Cancelled 0144B/16.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

3 M.L's from Harwich carried out a patrol last night in the Straits of Dover.

British Air Operations.

Minor attacks were made by Bomber Command last night on Dieppe and Boulogne. During today a 2500 ton merchant vessel is reported to have been hit and left sinking, 70 miles N.N.W. of Borkum.

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked the E-Boat base at Ijmuiden. Willemscord, La Pallice, Calais and Dieppe were also attacked.

Enemy Air Operations

SS ASSAROE reported at 0156 today being bombed 33 miles E.N.E. of Bailey Light (Dublin Bay)

SS GWENTHILLS reports being attacked 5 times by machine gun fire, by an enemy aircraft at 0300 today, 2 miles west of Bardsey Island.

Transport ARCHANGEL was bombed at 2350 in 57° 55' N., 2° 3' W whilst carrying troops to Aberdeen from Kirkwall. There are reported to be 99 casualties. Ship sank later.

SS ETHEL RADCLIFFE (torpedoed by E-Boat 17/4 and bombed 3/5) was attacked four times last night at Yarmouth and was severely damaged by bombs and is probably not capable of salvage.

MOST SECRET

16.5.1941.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

Operations
B.S. 56
S.N. 9 B

TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER and CATTISTOCK laid mines today in the East Coast Barrier. R.A. (M) reported this operation completed at 0952/16.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated last night in Liverpool Bay and off the south-west coast.

Mines were detonated off St. Anns Head.

South Atlantic.

DRAGON arrived at Freetown this morning escorting the French SS BOURBONNAIS which was intercepted by BULOLO 13/5.

It is thought that the Italian DUCHESSA D'AOSTA, which took refuge at Fernando Po when Italy entered the war is in W/T communication with Europe and is reporting movements of Allied shipping.

Mediterranean.

Submarines

Changes in the disposition of the submarines in the Mediterranean, necessitated by the altered situation are outlined by C. in C. Med. today.

Malta

The Grand Harbour was attacked by aircraft last night. The A.T. boom cannot be opened on account of damage to the winch by bombing. Several mines are believed to be in the fairway.

/GLOXINIA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Malta-Contd.

GLOXINIA has been damaged by mine. ENCOUNTER has been further damaged by bomb. FERMOY in dock is written off and is being broken up.

Three Swordfish aircraft were slightly damaged this morning by aircraft attack on Hal Far aerodrome.

The Malta supply situation is dealt with in a message from the Governor today.

Search for enemy convoy.

5 F.A.A. Swordfish from Malta last night swept an area between a point 70 miles E.S.E. of Malta and 60 miles E of Cape Passero to intercept, if possible, the southbound convoy, which, however, was not sighted.

UNDAUNTED lost.

UNDAUNTED is 3 days overdue from patrol north of Tripoli (Libya) and is considered lost.

Libya

Tobruk was attacked again today by enemy aircraft. Damage caused was negligible.

Air Attack on Suda Bay. Several ships damaged.

Suda Bay was dive bombed at 1730 today by about 25 aircraft. SS LOGICIAN, Greek NICOLAOU OURANIA, ARAYBANK and Greek KYTHERA are reported to have been hit and damaged; the two latter are reported to be on fire and unapproachable.

Syria

M.A. Ankara today gives information of the latest Turkish troop movements and forwards the Turkish Military Staff view of the situation.

MOST SECRET

16.5.1941.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Report

Freetown Area

C. in C. S.A. today gives a summary of enemy submarine activity in the Freetown area between 27/4 and 9/5.

SS RODNEY STAR reported at 0604 being torpedoed in 5° 3' N., 19° 2' W.

An unknown ship reported at 0835 being torpedoed in 5° 2' N., 10° 2' W. This was probably RODNEY STAR. Two destroyers and a flying boat searched the area, but found nothing.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

CLYDE

Admiralty 2339B/13. CLYDE has completed working up after a long refit and is now ready for service. Pending a decision as to her future employment, I suggest that she now proceeds to Gibraltar where she would be well placed strategically for service either in the Atlantic or the Mediterranean. (F.O.S. 1019B/16)

Movements

KOS 5

Your 1640B/14. Request information this vessel. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1054/16)

RODNEY
SOUTHERN PRINCE
BRITANNIC

RODNEY screened by 3 destroyers is to proceed passing Hoxa Boom at 1000/17 to Clyde.
(ii) C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. W.A., are requested to make A/S air escort. Code word DIMPLE.
(iii) Destroyers are to remain at Clyde and will be required for subsequent screening of RODNEY. (C. in C. H.F. 1209B/16 A.M. 2014B/13. Route for RODNEY, SOUTHERN PRINCE, and SS BRITANNIC, leaving U.K. 21/5 for Halifax.
2. SOUTHERN PRINCE should R/V with RODNEY and SS BRITANNIC in position A at 0830B/22 (D.O.D. H. 1617B/16)
Captain D. 6. in SOMALI with BEDOUIN, ESKIMO will be required to screen RODNEY to Clyde passing Hoxa Boom 1000B to-morrow. Para 2. On arrival at Clyde enter Harbour. You will be required for sub-sequent screening of RODNEY. (R.A.D. 1740B/16)

MOOLTAN

Admiralty 1817B/11 and C. in C. Nore 1540B/13. Intend to sail SLEIPNER as part escort to meet MOOLTAN off May Island about 1200/23. Request one destroyer be detailed to make same R/V, acting as S.O. of escort for passage to Clyde.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1249/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Warship to West of Shetlands.

Large warship reported by aircraft in 60° 10' N., 4° 15' W., at 0647/16.
6 Hudsons are searching.
Proceed with ARETHUSA to westward prepared to act on information received.
(C. in C. H.F., 1054B/16 to EDINBURGH)
Scapa departure 1215. EDINBURGH for operational duties to northward. (A.C.O.S. 1241/16)
In absence of further information para 2 of my 1054B/16 is cancelled.
GALATEA, EDINBURGH and ARETHUSA are to return to Area A.
(C. in C. H.F. 1554B/16)

Western Patrol.

Desired to re-establish Northern Zone of patrol as soon as possible. Reasons. Request proposals. (A.C.N.S. F. 1246B/16 to F.O.C.N.P.) See Operations Volume.

East Coast Patrols.

Departures M.T.B's 30 31 and 32 at 2135. M.T.B's 60 64 and 65 at 2150. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2152B/16)

British Air Activity

Patrols

Six Hudsons carrying out diverging search now as follows. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 1200/16)
3 Whitley A/C on A/S sweep flying in parallel tracks 30 miles interval for 200 miles leave Datum Line Butt of Lewis Cape Wrath on course 318° at 1400 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1320/16)

/Portland.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Portland. Engagement of Low-flying aircraft.

F.O.I.C. Portland has made strong representation to me that the present orders that fire is not to be opened by A.A. guns unless a plane is definitely established as hostile is resulting in enemy raiders cruising round at night with impunity. He requests that the correct policy is to fire at all low flying aircraft within the gun defended area unless they identify themselves as friendly by recognition signal.
He asks that Military Defences should open fire with all guns on aircraft at night seen below 3,000 feet.
I am not aware of any special orders governing the action of the Military Defences at Portland but from F.O.I.C. Portland's representation it appears that for some reason there are handicapping restrictions in that area.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1407B/16)

Own A/C shot down on 13/5.

Following is claim for aircraft probably destroyed at 0045/13 as a result of being engaged by Naval pom-poms sited at Penlee Point. Details.(C. in C. Plymouth, 1557/16)

Height of Kites and Balloons.

Admiralty 1939/22/4/41 giving conditions under which kites and balloons may be flown from ships. No mention is made of ports or anchorages when there are no shore barrages or waterborne balloons controlled by Balloon Command. Presume intention is that height from ships at anchor insuch areas should be limited to 300 feet as at night. Consider this essential for flying safely and request principle be agreed and instructions issued to this effect without delay as case recently occurred at Yarmouth where balloons from ships were flying at over 2000 feet in harbour. (H.Q.F.C. 2020/16 to Air Ministry)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Automatic AAAA signal heard at 0130 G.M.T. strength two bearing about 25° from Lands End. (Lands End 0131/16) (Port Patrick 0133/16)

ASSAROE

SS ASSAROE being bombed 33 miles E.N.E. of Bailey Light. (Liverpool W/T 0156/16)

ETHEL RADCLIFFE
Bombed.

British, 5673 tons. Attacked four times during the night by enemy aircraft. In last attack at 0455 four bombs were reported dropped and vessel sustained direct hits. No casualties. Damage extensive and severe. Prospects of salvage now extremely remote. Am continuing discharge of No.2 hold for the present and recovering Salvage Equipment. (Admty. Salvage Officer, Yarmouth, 0830B/16)

Aircraft
over
Orkneys.

At 0345 one E/A approached from N.E. at 8,000 to 10,000 feet, passed over Burray, South Ronaldsay, and Long Hope, and left at 0419 in N.W. direction near Rora Head. Plots were good and ground defences engaged E/A by unseen fire procedure. No bombs, mines or flares dropped.
(A.C.O.S. 1000/16 to Admty.)

PERFECTIVE
A/C shot down.

My 0935B/15. Further information proves this A/C was shot down by PERFECTIVE commanded by second hand W.C.P.Leigh. Vessel was anchored in Humber entrance and at 0023 A/C was heard approaching and was sighted flying at 200 feet. It was instantly engaged and tracers were seen to hit and engine was heard to cut out. Prisoners state that wing of plane touched water whilst avoiding fire but consider more likely that pilot was hit. Plane was not engaged by any other ship or from shore, and there were no fighters up.
(F.O.Humber, 1615B/16)

/GWENTHILLS....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

GWENTHILLS (British 868 tons) Reports being attacked five times by M/G. 1 enemy aircraft at 0300/16 two miles W. of Bardsey Island. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1821B/16)

ARCHANGEL (British 2448 tons) Bombed. ARCHANGEL bombed. Probably sinking. Am engaging aircraft. (BLANKNEY 2350/16)
Am standing by to take off wounded and repel probable further attack. (BLANKNEY 0021B/17)
ARCHANGEL severely damaged in boilers and engines. Not at present settling. (BLANKNEY 0025/17)

Convoys W.N. Odd & DAFFODIL Help RUSTY. Request fighter assistance. One enemy A/C. My position 57° 24' N., 1° 41' W. (Rosyth, 2352/16) Fighters left for Convoy RUSTY and DAFFODIL (Rosyth 2355/16)

Mining

Operation B.S. 56. TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER and CATTISTOCK sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0545/16)
Operation B.S. 56 completed. (TEVIOT BANK 1700B/16)

S.N. 9.B. Completed. (R.A.M. 0952/16)

Operation B.S. 57. Your 1924B/15. Request information whether mines will be ready in time to embark them on 18th. If so intend to carry out B.S. 57 that night. (C. in C. Nore, 1130B/16 to Admty.)
Your 1130B/16. Mines will be available. (D.D.O.D. M. 1822B/16 to C. in C. Nore)

/East Coast.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

East Coast Sweep.

Your 1110/13. Fleet sweeper searched one mile either side of a line joining following points. One new German "X" type mine out and sunk in 52° 7.5' N., 2° 24.5 E. One sweep parted at same time. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1253B/16)

1st M.S. Flotilla.

My 2055/6. BRAMBLE, HAZARD, HEBE, SEAGULL, SHARPSHOOTER and GOSSAMER are required to remain at one week's notice for minesweeping operations. Subject to above proviso they are available to you for escort duty. When BRITOMART rejoins she should be substituted for GOSSAMER. (D.M.S. 1339B/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

4th M.S. Flotilla Searching Sweep.

Request you will arrange for a high percentage searching sweep for moored mines to be carried out by 4th M.S.F. over the whole areas described in Admty. Messages 371 QZX and 372 QZX. Sweeps should be fully armed. (D.M.S. 1340B/16 to C. in C. Nore.)

Intend sailing 5 F M/S S.O. ELGIN at 1300 tomorrow proceeding by 225 and 202 QZS to Aldeburgh Float commencing Sweep as follows. Details. Returning to Harwich by 2245/18. Request Fighter protection and fighter escort as follows. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2157B/16)

Milford Haven

2 mines detonated today by sweeper off St. Anns Head. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1841/16)

KILEEMAN

(Steam Barge, 72 tons) Sunk by mine in the River Mersey on 7/5. (D.S. 619)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

E-Boats.

Possible E-Boats sighted at 0123 by Motor Launch on patrol off Smith's Knoll. (C. in C. Nore, 0155B/16)

E-Boats number unknown bearing 090° in position 038° 29 miles from Lowestoft. (M.L. 110 0215B/16)

The following points are being used by E-Boats on East Coast. (D.D.I.C. 1847B/16)

Brest

Battle cruisers in usual positions. Visual R/C 1310/16. (D.D.I.C. 1544B/16)

Enemy Raider

A vessel closely resembling German HOHENFELS which may be Raider No.16 was sighted on 3/5 in 24° 45' S. 24°29'W See illustration WIR No 47 31st January. No 16 has been at sea since April 1940 and was last located in Indian Ocean South of Saya de Malha on 28/2/41. She may now be making for a French Atlantic Port. (D.D.I.C. 1610B/16)

M.V. off Gris Nez.

An enemy M.V. about 3000 tons, tanker type, was observed to pass Cap Gris Nez westwards. Speed 8 knots, at 1834 today. (V.A. Dover, 1908B/16)

Miscellaneous

Delayed Signals.

Request that delays in receipt of following four signals amending Admty. 0001/1 be investigated. In consequence of delays two ships have been sailed as per original instructions contained in Admty. 0001/1. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1000/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Your 1000/16. Admty. signals were only received at Greenock as follows:
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1740B/16 to N.O.I.C. Oban) Note by War Registry.
The signals in question were addressed to C's in Chief and not individually to either Greenock or Oban.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

W.S. 8 B

A.M. 2256B/10. Request you will detail EXETER as cruiser escort.
3. After convoying W.S. 8 (B) ship will probably remain on foreign service.
(V.C.N.S. 1054B/16 to C. in C. H.F.)
Convoy W.S. 8 B consisting of one M.T. and six personnel ships will leave U.K. on 22/5 for M.E. Speed of slowest ship is 14 knots. (D.O.D. (F) 1332B/16 to C. in C. E.I.)

Ships missing from Convoy.

Your 1045/16. My position is 62 F buoy 31 ships in company. Have ordered LE TIGER to search back 15 miles for remaining 6 and report situation. (VERSATILE 1135/16 to C. in C. Rosyth)
My 1135. LE TIGER reports no sign of these ships. (VERSATILE 1522/16)

SS EMPIRE PROGRESS

Now at Cardiff to sail. Portsmouth to Milford Haven for O.B. convoy. As this ship will load a valuable cargo at Portsmouth all possible protection should be provided. (D.T.D. 1830B/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CIRCASSIA	Your 1744B/13. CIRCASSIA has engine defects which will be completed a.m. 20th. (N.O.I.C., Iceland, 1844/16)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H.	Departure (corrupt grou) S.O. Force H in ARK ROYAL RENOWN, SHEFFIELD, WRESTLER, FEARLESS, FORESTER, FURY in accordance with S.O. Force H's 0925/15. (S.O.I. Gib:, 1030A/16).
Search for A/C.	Search for Wellington aircraft believed to be forced landed 150 miles west of Cadiz. Aircraft co-operating. (F.O.C.N.A. 1035/16 to HAVELOCK).
REGENT.	Your 2101B/15 acknowledged. Comply with my 1210A/15. (F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/16, to REGENT).
JONQUIL. GERANIUM.	Return to Gibraltar at best speed. Report E.T.A. when not less than 100 miles from SCARBOROUGH. (F.O.C.N.A. 1313/16 to JONQUIL GERANIUM).
SURCOUF.	C. in C. Plymouth's ?2232/14 and Adty. 1243/24/4. SURCOUF is routed through (a) 49° 30' N. 10° W. (b) 42° N. 25° W. to patrol within 150 miles radius of (c) 35° N. 40° W. to limit of endurance. E.T.A. at Bermuda 14/6. (F.O.(s) 1448B/16 to F.O.C.N.A).
TRUANT.	F.O.C.N.A's 1110/12. Request you will sail TRUANT p.m. 20/5 for Portsmouth New Hampshire (route, speed, E.T.A. etc.). (A.C.N.S. (F) 1808B/16 to F.O.C.N.A, C. in C. A.W.I).
ATLANTA. Italian	Insistent rumour in Port indicates about to sail. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1840/16 to Admty.)
Evacuation from Gibraltar etc.	D.O.D.(F) 2312B/16 See South Atlantic.

/S.S. OLGA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

S.S. OLGA TOPIC. — My 0135/3. Inform Master OLGA TOPIC in writing that sale of ship to Swiss is unauthorised and TOPIC will confirm that it is cancelled; that he is to take his ship to U.S.A. via Gibraltar in accordance with orders of the Yugoslav Legation, that the vessel will be employed on conditions agreed between the British and Yugoslav Governments, and that neither he nor his crew will be compelled to take the vessel to U.K. or ports in East Africa, north of Mombasa. (Hd. of M. 2322B/16 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

HOHENFELS (German) — A vessel closely resembling German HOHENFELS which may be German raider No. 16 was sighted 24° 45' S. 24° 29' W. 3/5. Vessel may be making for a French Atlantic Port. (F.O.C.N.A. 2358/16 to FURIOUS, ARAWA, SCARBOROUGH).

South Atlantic.

S.S. BUTESHIRE. — My 2258/15. fire now under control. (D.A.M.S. Officer, Buenos Aires 0329/16).

PEEBLES. — Overdue Shipping. PEEBLES due Freetown 15/5 but expected 12/5 from Capetown 28/4. Has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 0850N/16 to Admty.)

Guns from Red Sea Coasters. — Admty. 1546/27/2/41. In view of altered position in Red sea intend not to disembark Military personnel or guns from D.E.M.S bound Suez Canal zone pending receipt of further instructions from Admiralty. Intend to resume arrangements made in A.M. quoted above upon receipt of Hotchkiss guns referred to in C. in C. East Indies 0810Z/10/5. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1125B/16, to Admty.).

/Orders.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Orders to NELSON EAGLE	Admty. 2349B/15 proceed St. Helena. EAGLE is to complete with fuel there if conditions permit in order to be available for any operation on passage if situation requires. (C. in C. S.A. 1125N/16 to NELSON, EAGLE)
BOURBONNAIS (French)	Arrival 0600/16. DRAGON and BRIDGEWATER escorting French BOURBONNAIS (S.O.I. Freetown 1201N/16)
S.L. 75	Your 1647/15. No cruiser escort is available. (D.O.D. (F) 1244B/16 to C. in C S.A.)
ARUNDEL CASTLE	My 1927/14. Sailed from Freetown 6/5 for Gibraltar. E.T.A. p.m./21. (C. in C. S.A., 1251N/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)
DUCHESSA D'AOSTE	1. There is reason to believe that Italian DUCHESSA D'AOSTE which took refuge at Fernando Po when Italy entered the war is in wireless communication with Europe and that information regarding movements of Allied shipping may be transmitted by this means. (Spears Mission, Brazzaville, 1415/16)
ALIAKMON Greek	Returned from S.L. 74 having been in collision, only stem damage so far found this will be repaired by fitting large cement box, vessel expected to sail S.L. 76. (M.W.T.R., Freetown, 1456N/16 to M. of W.T.)
CHARLES L.D. (French)	Arrived 16/5. (N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth. 1746/16 to D. of S.T.)

/LL Sweepers....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

LL Sweepers for Mediterranean.

Admty. 1837B/11.
(2) Intend sailing HEKTOR VII and GOS VI from Durban 19/5 for installation of switch-gear at Alexandria.
(4) Subject to satisfactory trials NEBB and KAI will be ready for sea end of May. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1832B/16 to Admty.)

Portuguese Atlantic possessions.

Your 1839N/14. President of the Council issued formal statement on 9/5 that (1) No belligerent had made any demand for eventual utilisation of any part of Portuguese possessions against another Power. (2) That as an affirmation of Sovereignty Portuguese Government had taken steps to defend all their Atlantic Islands against any attack, though such attack considered unlikely.
H.M. Ambassador, Lisbon has on several occasions impressed on Doctor Salazar urgent necessity of reinforcing garrisons in Atlantic Islands and increasing defensive measures there and in Portugal. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1818B/16 to C. in C. S.A)

CARNARVON CASTLE
ASTURIAS

Your 1146/13. Intended that CARNARVON CASTLE shall relieve ASTURIAS on completion of docking which commenced 13/5. Ship should join her division about end of first week in June. ASTURIAS will then proceed refit and boiler cleaning be deferred. (C. in C. S.A. 2125N/16 to R.A.S.A.D.)

ARUNDEL CASTLE
Evacuations from Gib. etc.

C. in C. S.A. 1927/14. In view of small accommodation remaining in ARUNDEL CASTLE and necessity for her speedy return to U.K. she should only embark 100 personnel at Gibraltar and sail independently without awaiting escort.

/2.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

ARUDEL CASTLE
Evacuations
from Gib. etc.
-Contd.

2. If ship has not returned to Freetown for re-routeing she should be allowed to proceed direct to U.K.
3. C. in C. S.A. report whether ship has been re-routed.
4. NEA HELLAS should be used for
(a) 1,700 Gibraltarians and
(b) British and Allied personnel ex Lisbon understood now not likely to exceed 400. Any vacant accommodation may be used for personnel ex Tangier.
(D.O.D. (F) 2312B/16 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

CRITON
(French)

Your 1231/12. Nature of cargo does not warrant prize proceedings. Vessel will be requisitioned as a reprisal for detention of British ships in French ports.
French crew should be asked whether they wish to join de Gaulle and ship's complement made up from survivors of British merchant ships as necessary. You should inform them that after requisitioning French flag will be worn at main mast. Preferred that requisitioning should take place in U.K. In this case it is advisable to place token naval prize crew on board during voyage home to justify vessel's status as a "capture" in case of emergency, and white ensign should be worn at the fore in circumstances specified in last paragraph of Article 109 in Prize manual.
If personnel for token crew are not available ship will be requisitioned at Freetown under Defence Regulations. Ammunition should be off-loaded.
(Hd. of M. 2323B/16 to C. in C. S.A.)

U-Boats

Summary of enemy submarine activity in Freetown area 27/4 to 9/5. (C. in C., S.A. 2357N/16) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

"Tiger" Convoy A/A/Defence.	Request early information as follows on A/A arrangements in ships of "Tiger" convoy (a) In how many ships the A/A arrangements came into action. (b) Effectiveness of each type. (c) Suggestion as to how ships similarly employed should be armed on a future occasion. (1st S.L. 0134B/16 to C. in C. Med.)
Convoy A.S. 31.	Two Greek destroyers will R/V with you in position 032° 16' N., 029° 45' E. at 0600/16. (R.A. Alexandria, 0205C/16 to ISIS)
Evening Convoy.	Following Maryland recco Augusta in my I 312 15/5. 5 Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A Swept area between 35° 25' N., 15° 50' E., to 36° 35 N., 16° 08 E., from 2300 to 0100 to intercept possible southbound convoy. No convoy sighted. (H.Q. Malta 0330/16 to H.Q., R.A.F. M.E.)
R.A (D)	Expect to sail 0740. Course 330°. Speed of advance 20 knots. (R.A. (D) M. 0717 /16 to KANDAHAR)
Minelaying	Admty. 0120 (?) B/7. No Flooders have been received nor have I any information that these components are being supplied. Laying of minefields in accordance with my 1356/30/4 has been postponed. (C. in C. Med. 0908C/16 to Admty.)
Night Operations.	If no further developments occur following movements are to be carried out tonight 16-17/5. Force B GLOUCESTER, FIJI and two destroyers commence sweeping Matapan-Sapienza at 2300 to be 60 miles clear of the coast by daylight and rejoin S.O. Battleships Med. Fleet.

/Force D.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Night Operations -Contd.

Force D. NAIAD, PERTH and 2 destroyers to reach Anti Kithera Channel 2300/16.
Force C. To reach Kaso Strait 2300/16 unless further orders have been received by 2300 Force D withdrawn to join S.O. Battleships Mediterranean Fleet, Force C withdraws to South Eastward.
Forces to be in position at dusk/17 to carry out similar sweep night of 17/18th.
(C. in C. Med. 1104/16 to S.O. Battleships, Med. Fleet, R.A. 15 C.S., R.A. (D) Med., GLOUCESTER)

Fleet Operations

If situation remains unchanged I intend 1st eleven to sail with flag of 7th C.S. in WARSPITE p.m/18 to relieve you.
(C. in C. Med. 1106C/16 to R.A. 1st B.S.)

Extension of Danger Zone.

My 2247B/15 will enable you to take action in circumstances such as those referred to in Admiralty Message 1635B/14.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1113B/16 to C. in C. Med.)

Air Operations

One. Western Desert. Night 14/15 May. Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and Denina aerodrome. Details awaited.
Two. Greece. Night 14/15 May. Wellingtons bombed Hassani, Megara and Menidi aerodromes in Athens area, details awaited.
Three. Crete. My A.869 15/5 Para three. One Fulmar, two Blenheims damaged on ground during raids on Maleme aerodrome on 13th and 14th May.
13/5 seven escort patrols for incoming Convoy by Blenheims.
One Gladiator intercepted four JU 88's and one M.E. 110 about to attack convoy off Heraklion, breaking up their formation.
Night 13/14 May. Suda Bay intermittently bombed during night. Damage reported slight.
Four. Cyprus 15/5 eight Italian aircraft bombed Nicosia and three unspecified villages at noon. No service damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1124/16)

/ACEABAT....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

ECEABAT
Turkish
Ferry Boats

Your 1736B/13. ECEABAT has remained in Egypt owing to uncertainty of situation and pending completion of repairs. Intend vessel should now sail to Mersin if she can be taken over by Turkish authorities.
Two. Consider that four of the remaining seven ferry boast are vital to our requirements and should be retained until the arrival of Z craft from India late in the year. Three. M.E. concur in above proposals. (C. in C. Med., 1222/16 to Admty)

Long-Range
Air
Reconnaissance.

For Tedder from C.A.S.
I should like your comments and suggestions on C. in C. Med's 1807C/15. Is your inability to provide reconnaissance required due to priorities or to actual lack of any serviceable aircraft?.
(Air Min., 1315/16 to H.Q. R.A.F., M.E.)

Suda Bay
SS BUSH

Situation all quiet. If BUSH is sailed tonight unescorted can Italian prisoners be embarked. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1330/16 to C. in C. Med.) Your 1330/16. Yes. Sail her via Kithera & report route to Med. Fleet. (C. in C. Med.1634/16 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay)

Sollum
A/A Defence.

Your 1617/15 (N.T. in W.R.) consider A/A defence of Sollum needs immediate augmentation if not already arranged. (S.O. Force (I) 1333/16 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy
Shipping

7 Merchant Ships expected to leave Sfax northbound p.m/16 (Cdr. (S) 1 1[illegible]35B/16 to URGE.)

Crete
Patrol

Your 1024/13 (N.T. in W.R.) M.T.B's 67 and 217 will be patrolling in Elaphonisos Channel during night 16/17 May.
(S.B.N.O., Suda Bay 1437C/16 to C. in C. Med.)

/Syria.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Syria	Turkish plans. (M.A. Ankara, 1515/16, to C. in C. M.E.) See Lion Copy.
A.S. 31. escort.	C. in C. Med. 1103/15. Greek destroyers cannot pass boom before midnight. (R.A. Alexandria 1521C/15 to Capt. (D) 10)
Malta Air Raids	16/5. Report Malta up to 1600. Times G.M.T. Night 15/16, 0115-0300 hrs. about 8 enemy aircraft over target Grand Harbour Some bombs on land 2 in Valletta causing negligible civilian damage. Navy, slight damage to dockyard. ENCOUNTER received direct hit by small bomb. SS AMERIKA superficial damage by near miss. Further mines dropped in both Marsamxett and Grand Harbour and entrances. No Army or R.A.F. damage. No casualties. 0910. 17 M.E. 109's dropped 10 250 lb. bombs Hal Far Aerodrome from 15,000 feet. (H.Q., Med. 1630/16)
Disposition of S/M's.	In view of changed situation. Intentions (C. in C. Med., 1734/16) See Mediterranean Volume.)
Alexandria Sanctuary.	Alexandria Submarine Sanctuary will be in force 0300 to 0730/17 (G.M.T) for TAKU arriving. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1735/16 to Force I)
CACHALOT report of explosion.	CACHALOT reports at 0045/14 column of water 200 feet high followed by loud explosion occurred in position 037° 08' 011° 15'. CACHALOT was passing 2 miles to northwards and incident clearly seen by moonlight, nothing was in sight before or after explosion. At 0245/14 exchanged signals with REGENT. (Cdr. S. 1., 1805B/16 to Capt. S. 1.)

/HYACINTH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

HYACINTH SALVIA	HYACINTH is to relieve SALVIA at Suda Bay at first opportunity on completion of repairs about 22/5. (C. in C. Med. 1829C/16 to F.O. (D.) M.)
Malta Supplies	Governor, Malta, 1831B/16 to C. in C. Med. (See Lion Copy.)
Enemy Units.	Two transports one destroyer in position 032° 27' 014° 46' proceeding westwards speed of advance 14 knots. One destroyer proceeding eastwards speed 30 knots. (UNBEATEN, 1850/16 to C. in C. Med.)
Malta Air Damage & mining. FERMOY total loss.	Grand Harbour Boom winch house damaged by bomb and A.T. Boom cannot be opened till winch is repaired. Several mines believed type G. in Fairway in Grand Harbour. SWONA only LL sweeper available as GLOXINIA has suffered damage from a near miss acoustic mine. SWONA is in Marsamxett Harbour which still has a clear fairway. ENCOUNTER further damaged by bomb in number two Boiler Room. FERMOY in No 5. dock is written off and being broken up to enable dock to be cleared and valuable items salved. (V.A. Malta 1903B/16 to C. in C. Med.)
New type Mine at Malta.	Description. (V.A. Malta 1921B/16, 2030B/16)
SYVERN & M.T.B's.	SYVERN escorting M.T.B's 216 and 213 will be proceeding from Sphakia to Suda Bay during night 16th/17th. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1951/16 to C. in C. Med.)

/Air Attcks....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air Attacks on Suda Bay 4 ships damaged.

Suda Bay dive bombed at 1730/16. About 25 aircraft 40 to 50 heavy bombs. LOGICIAN hit alongside pier caught fire but now safe and not making water, cannot move at present. Greek NICOLAI EURANIA hit fire under control. ARAYBANK with Greek KYTHERA alongside hit and heavily on fire, unapproachable. About 25 casualties mostly Australians. Unloading LOGICIAN. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 2027/16 to C. in C. Med.)

EMPIRE SONG Enquiry.

In his report of loss of EMPIRE SONG FORESIGHT recommends holding an enquiry. Owing to dispersion of witnesses many of whom include chief engineers returned to Gibraltar this cannot be held at Malta. (V.A. Malta, 2112B/16 to Admty.)

Safety route for PERSEUS

Safety route is ("established" or "now") between ends of Port Said and ("the" or Alexandria") searched channel through (positions) from 0800/17 to 0800/18 for PERSEUS (Capt. (S) 1 2207C/16 to Med. Fleet)

Tripoli

Tripoli (Africa) Air photographic reconnaissance, 16/5. 8 Destroyers 18 small and medium Merchant Vessels, oil on water. (V.A. Malta, 2213B/16 to C. in C. Med.)

Barrage Balloons

Your 1527/2 and (? 2138) B/6 to A.S. Dockyard Malta. Request details of performances of free balloons.
Are these operated by Naval or R.A.F. Personnel?
This form of balloon barrage seems very suitable for Malta defences.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 2221B/16 to Admty.)

/GLENGYLE....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

GLENGYLE.
A.S. 31.

My 1214/16/4 (N.T. in W.R) GLENGYLE is to embark lighters with despatch and return to Alexandria as soon as possible. DECOY may be used as escort if Greek destroyers are not ready. Report E.T.A. Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 22560/16 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area).

UNDAUNTED
overdue lost.

Regret UNDAUNTED is now three days overdue, there has been no reply to my 1646B/12 asking for position and I consider her lost. At 0815/7 UPRIGHT in position 033° 46' 012° 48' heard one very loud explosion similar to ship being torpedoed, at 1000/8 H.M.S. UPRIGHT in position 032° 33' 014° 30' heard series of distant explosions. There is no news of any enemy claims. UNDAUNTED was operating North of Tripoli (Africa). (S.O. (Subs) Malta, 2315B/16 to Capt. S.1).

East Indies.

S/M
distress
message.

Intercepted by CANBERRA (C. in C. E.I, 0204/16) See U-Boat Campaign.

Difrein,
Honril, etc.,
evacuations
Shumma
minefield.

My 0502/3/5 (1) Nocra, 1000 all classes evacuated (2) Ras Kumbit, four 70 m.m. Coast Defence Guns found destroyed and Battery deserted. (3) Delemmi, two Batteries each four 70 mm. Guns destroyed. (4) Shumma one battery 70 mm. Guns destroyed. (5) Harmil, Garrison surrendered and evacuated (6) Arrangements to evacuate Garrasons under Paras. (3) and (4) being made. (7) Commandant Shumma states minefield existed between Shumma and Ras Kumbit. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0556Z/16 to Admty.).

W.S.8A.
Escort.

(i) In view of N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2117/15 cancel my 1246/11.
(ii) Intend HAWKINS to relieve MAURITIUS near Cape about 23/5 and escort W.S.8A to Durban and subsequently to Perim.
(iii) C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange R/V for HAWKINS and W.S.8A.
(C. in C. E.I.0758Z/16 to Admty, C. in C.S.A)

/S.W.6.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

S.W.6. — Durban arrival RANCHI escorting Convoy S.W.6. (N.L.O. Durban 1128Z/16 to Admty etc).

Shatt-el-Arab mine watching. — Your 1108/15 (i) concur that this is best arrangement at present practicable and approved to take up such craft as your require and can officer and man locally; (ii) all naval personnel you ask for are not immediately available but F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to state how far he can help. (C. in C. E.I. 1232Z/16 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

KANIMBLA. — My 0824/10 para 3 After escorting NEVASA to 060° E. KANIMBLA is to proceed to Karachi (C. in C. E.I. 1304Z/16 to KANIMBLA, ANTENOR).

CORNWALL. — N.O.I.C. Durban's 0920/15 CORNWALL is to leave Mauritius P.M. /17 if practicable and proceed Durban at 18 knots. (C. in C. E.I. 1306Z/16 to CORNWALL).

CORNWALL. GLASGOW. — My 1908/10. (1) After carrying out search of Saya De Malha CORNWALL and GLASGOW are proceeding to Mauritius for fuel to arrive a.m./17. (2) After fuelling CORNWALL proceeds to Durban for repairs. (3) GLASGOW remains at Mauritius to clean boilers. (C. in C. E.I. 1308Z/16 to Adty.).

CALEDON. CERES. — A.M. 2152/18/4. Is it the intention that CALEDON should return to East Indies Station shortly? Until she does and her refit is completed I am unable to spare CERES for her refit which was due in February. (C. in C.E.I., 1754Z/16 to Admty).

/Survivors.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Survivors of EMPIRE LIGHT CLAN BUCHANAN BRITISH EMPEROR.	Unnumbered Secret Reference his telegram 2046/14 (N.T. in W.R. 1332/14 from C. in C. E.I. is presumably intended). Part I. The names in my immediately following telegram are British and Lascar survivors landed by CORNWALL grouped as follows. (a) EMPIRE LIGHT (b) CLAN BUCHANAN (c) BRITISH EMPEROR. (Governor, Seychelles T.H.I. 1904/16 to Adty.).
S.S. RAMO.	Understood Norwegian ship RAMO bound Basra to load for Durban and States is detained by you. Request reason and when likely to sail. (D.T.D. 2111B/16 to N.C.S.O. Bombay).
EMPIRE LIGHT.	(Attacked by raider 25/4 North of Seychelles) C. in C. E.I. reports survivors. Ships consequently presumed sunk. (D.S. 619).

America & West Indies.

D.E.M.S. in U.S. Ports.	In view of present U.S. policy whereby British warships are refitted at U.S. ports suggest U.S. Govt. should be asked to permit mounting of defensive armament in British and Allied ships at U.S. ports. This would save considerable delay, at present new guns are merely placed on board at U.S. ports and ships must proceed to British port for mounting. If this can be arranged propose D.E.M.S. officers be appointed to New York and possibly other U.S. parts to assist and advise. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0953Q/16 to Admty.).
U.S. Cutters.	Your 2136B/8. Cutters are renamed as follows: SARANAC as BANFF, TAHOE as FISHGUARD, MENDOTA as GULVER, PONTCHARTRAIN as HARTLAND, CHELAN as LULWORTH, SEBAGO as WALNEY, CHAMPLAIN as SENNEN, CAYUGA as TOTLAND, SHOSHONE as LANDGUARD, ITASCA as GORLESTON. (MALAYA, 1047/16 to Admty.).
CARADOC. BISHOPDALE.	My 1642Q/6. After fuelling CARADOC at Tortola on 18/5 Oiler BISHOPDALE is to proceed to Bermuda passing through position 025° N. 066° W. (C. in C.AW.I. 1052Q/16 to CARADOC).

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Convoy Code Words.

Your 2108B/5. N.S.H.Q. suggests that promulgation of code word to all ships in convoy may reduce secrecy and increase oscillation; and further suggests information be limited to Cdres. Request Admiralty decision. (C. in C.A.W.I. 14170/16, to Admty.) Reply: 2026/23.

W/T in B.H.X. Convoys.

All W/T receivers in ships sailing in B.H.X Convoys whether or not capable of oscillating are to be sealed except in Vice Commodore's ship. Instructions on lines of N.S.H.Q. 1643Z/13/5 are to be issued to Masters and carefully explained to Convoy conference. (C. in C. A.W.I. 17320/16).

Mortier Bay.

My 1541P/11 rough survey of Mortier Bay shows following. (R.A. (3) 1810P/16 to Admty.)

PRINCE ROBERT.

Sailed Esquimalt 16/5 arrives Suva 28/5 escort S.S. AORANGI from Suva towards Esquimalt to limit of endurance then returning to Suva. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2051Z/16 to Admty.).

THORSHAVN.

Your 1452/15 Beatty Montreal has been informed THORSHAVN should complete D.G. repairs and proceed Clyde. (D.T.D. 2112B/16 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS.

Following from Isbrandtsen S.S. Co. Please ascertain position situation American Motor Ship BROOKLYN HEIGHTS. Vessel left Karachi 28/4 due Basrah 4/5 since unreported. (Consul General New York, (? 2202)/16 to Admty.) Reply: 1916/18;

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SOMERSBY. — British, 5170 tons, in convoy S.C. 30 with grain for Loch Ewe, torpedoed 240' S.W. of Iceland a.m./13. S.S. MARIKA PROTOPARA has rescued all the crew. (D.O.R. 16/5).

BENVENUE. — British 5920 tons. Received 2314 G.M.T. SSSS at 2110 G.M.T. 4.27 N. 28.25 W. or 18. 25 W. name not sure was BENVENUE, torpedoed. (Portishead Radio T.H.I. 0120/16).

Intercept by CANBERRA. — Following is a repetition of CANBERRA 2345/15 begins C. in C. E.I. From CANBERRA Following corrupt message was read at 2118Z/15. Begins SSSS torpedo 2 blank 39 N. DEZ AVORM QRU Ends. Bearing 220°third class sense determined strength seven atmospherics 9 my position 009° 33' N. 053° 42' E. 9. (C. in C. E.I. 0204/16 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

RODNEY STAR. — (British 11803 tons) Following has been read. SSSS de GRL 05.03 N. 19.02 W. RODNEY STAR torpedoed. (Burnham Radio, 0604/16, Portishead Radio T.H.I. 1011/16).

SALOPIAN (torpedoed 13/5) — Your 1839P/15. It is confirmed that SALOPIAN was torpedoed and sunk. IMPULSIVE with 278 survivors is proceeding to Hvalfiord. (D.C. 0755B/16 to R.A.3).

When fuel makes it necessary to abandon operations proceed Iceland (C) to fuel and await orders. (C. in C. W.A. 1438B/16 to Capt. (D/3)).

Unknown ship. — Following has been read. SSSS 05.02 N. 10.02 W. unread torpedoed de VPU (Sierra Leone) 0620Z/16. (Freetown T.O.R. 0835/16) W.D. Note - Was possibly corrupt version of RODNEY STAR SSSS. See C.in C. S.A. 1345/19.

WRAY CASTLE. (torpedoed 3/5) — S.O. (I) Freetown's 2159/13. WRAY CASTLE torpedoed 3/5 (repetition 3/5) in position 68° 48 N. 13°38 W. 44 in crew all saved except one Arab presumed killed by the explosion. (C. in C. S.A. 2132N/16 to Admty).

/LASSELL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd)

LASSELL (torpedoed 30/4). — My 2141/6. Chief Officer and 25 survivors of LASSELL landed Freetown (? date corrupt) Ship was sunk by one torpedo from U.22. 3rd Engineer and one Greaser killed by explosion. Remainder of crew with Captain and four Passengers not yet accounted for but some evidence they may have been picked up. (C. in C. S.A., 2157N/16 to Admty.).

Submarines Reported.

0145. — Series V. (corrupt group) on W/T detected close, strength 9, followed by coded groups, 61° 10' N. 022° 32' W. BULLDOG joining H.X. 124. Am making Asdic Sweep. (DANEMAN, 0145Z/16 to C. in C. W.A).

0620. — Admiralty message A.F. 05.02 N. 10.02 W. at 0620 Z. (C. in C.S.A. 0636Z/16 to G.B.M.S. 6A).

0800. — Following has been read. X. 329P. Sub. on surface, position 53.40 N. 22.00 W. Liverpool W/T, T.O.R. 0822/16).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1423B/16).

1850 G.M.T. — At 1850 G.M.T. Italian U-Boat bearing 215° 2nd Class from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2034A/16 to DORSETSHIRE, BULOLO, VELOX.)

By D/F on 5025 kc/s at 1849 G.M.T. Italian U/B in 45° 30' N. 4° 00' W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2139B/16 to S/M's on patrol in Plymouth Command).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

South Atlantic.

27/4 - 9/5. Summary of U/B Activity (C. in C. S.A., 2357N/16) See Lion Copy.

Submarines Attacked.

By VERBENA, WATCHMAN. Have attacked good contact in 062° 28' N. 024° 30' W. Consider submarine surfaced, am chasing to S.E. at full speed. (VERBENA , 0100/16 to N.O.I.C. Iceland). My 0100/16 have carried out an attack on doubtful contact in 062° 31' N. 024° 10' W. at 0134Z negative results. Intend continuing chase in direction 080° until daylight then to sweep back to Reykjavik. Submarine seen on surface after first series of attacks using flashlight. Low cloud and mist reduced effectiveness of star shells Have asked WATCHMAN and remainder of twelfth escort group to sweep back through area. (VERBENA 0300Z/16 to N.O.I.C., Iceland). WATCHMAN, VERBENA in company 0510 position 62.45 N., 23.30 W. Am searching on course 215° 12 knots (WATCHMAN 0536/16 to F.OIC. Iceland) Leave EMPIRE INDUSTRY at Mouth of searched channel and proceed with all despatch to assist H.M.S. WATCHMAN searching for U-boat (Capt. (D) 12 1208Z/16 to BURNHAM, SCIMITAR).
Have carried out 2 attacks and VERBENA one on contact in position 62° 15' N. 23° 35'W. Second contact attacked gave every indication of being submarine. At present carrying out all round sweep. If contact not regained shall search area within 8 mile square. (WATCHMAN 1420/16 to S.O. Escort Group 12).

By HIBISCUS etc., 15/5. Cancel my 2206B/15 HIBISCUS and RHODODENDRON report proceeding to rejoin convoy at 2126/15. (C. in C.W.A. 0144B/16 to TARTAR).
My 1905B/15. Remain with convoy to limit of endurance. (C. in C.H.F. 1015B/16 to TARTAR MASHONA).
Reference C. in C.H.F's 1509B/15 (1905B/15 intended) after leaving convoy sweep through positions 053° 46' N. 019° 07' W. and 054° 18' N. 018° 46' W. where U Boats were attacked at 2009B/15 and 1715B/15. (C. in C.W.A. 1028B/16 to TARTAR).

/By....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (contd).

By LANCASTER. Gained good submarine contact in 060° 49'N. 009° 36' W. Carried out 4 counter attacks. Large bubbles and slight oil only evidence have rejoined D.S.3. (LANCASTER 1505B/16).

By A/C. At 1059. (O/C R.A.F. Lough Erne 1730/16).

By A/C. A/C B/210 sighted 2 U/B's at 0815/16 in 52-55 N., 19. - 45 W. 400' W. of Galway. 1 Attacked with G/F. (D.S. 620/17/5).

By A/C 1740/15 (?) Position 54° 08' N. 19° 22' W. 2 Corvettes summoned by Z/209 arrived 40 mins after attack established contact in approx same position and subsequently made 6 further attacks. 2hms 20 mins after attack by Z/209 Corvette signalled 'Consider him a goner. Three cheers'. (H.Q. 15 Group 2010/16).

By A/C 0815. Aircraft sighted 2 U-Boats in 052° 55' N. 019° 45' W. at 0815/16. Both S/Ms dived on being attacked. (C. in C. W.A. 2359/16 to VANQUISHER).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

IZARRA intercepted.

REGISTAN this morning intercepted the French auxiliary schooner IZARRA in approx. 45° 46' N 29° 10' W and is sending her to St. Johns Newfoundland after taking on board 6 anti-British members of the crew.

The stationing of A/A ships in Thames Estuary is cancelled.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked Boulogne, Rotterdam and Ostend last night. Minor attacks were made by Coastal Command aircraft on targets at Willemsoord, Calais, La Pallice and Dieppe.

Enemy Air Operations.

Scapa.

An enemy aircraft passed over Scapa Flow this afternoon.

N.W. Approaches.

S.S. [illegible] was bombed at 0645B in 56° 44' N 13° 45' W and sank later.

East Coast.

A M/S group was bombed and machine-gunned in the Thames Estuary at 2240 but no damage is reported. Bombs were dropped in the Harwich area last night, but no Naval damage is reported.

Channel.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.(contd).

Channel

S.S. ARTHUR WRIGHT and ADA which had left convoy for Shoreham, with S.S. BOTHE, were attacked off Shoreham this afternoon and damaged. S.S. ARTHUR WRIGHT shot down one of the 2 enemy planes.

A coastal convoy from Portsmouth to Dartmouth was attacked at 1010 off Portland Bill. No damage is reported. Minor damage from incendiary bombs was caused at the N.S. Depot Woolston at 0150 today.

Mining.

Three Beauforts laid mines off Brest last night.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was carried out last night in Milford Haven, off the Humber, Wash and Whitesand Bay.

Milford Haven was closed at 0530 on account of mines dropped by enemy aircraft. Reopened 1114B.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

In view of the probable damage to the German battle cruisers at Brest RENOWN is to refit. S.O. Force H is to transfer his flag to REPULSE or ARK ROYAL.

South Atlantic.

Reinforcement of Freetown A/S forces.

C. in C. S.A. is to be reinforced by a division of destroyers (3 Vees from Portsmouth and one from W.A. Command), to assist in dealing with attacks on trade in the Freetown area.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal.

About 8 enemy aircraft dropped mines or bombs in the Suez Canal Zone between 2305 and 2357, between Port Said and a point south of Suez. Six unexploded mines are reported to have been dropped in the Canal and several exploded on landing on the bank or in the Canal. Traffic was stopped in the northern sector of the canal.

ABA bombed.

Hospital ship ABA was bombed twice today. south of Kano Strait. RAD with Force C came to her assistance and shot down 2 of the enemy, COVENTRY was slightly damaged by near miss.

Crete.....

MOST SECRET.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Crete. Suda Bay was bombed both this morning and this afternoon. At 1600 ELEONORA MAERSK and THEMONI were hit and set on fire. The latter blew up and sank later. VOLO was slightly damaged alongside the pier, which was hit.

Fifteen M.T.B's have now reached Crete, and Elaphonisos patrol was in force last night.

East Indies.

Reinforcement. EXETER is to join the East Indies Command after escorting W.S.8B, SHROPSHIRE and CORNWALL are to remain on the station for the present.

Shatt-el-Arab. The questions of countering possible enemy minelaying in the Shatt-el-Arab and defence of ships against air attacks, are dealt with by an Admiralty message today to C. in C. Med., and C. in C. E.I.

America & West Indies.

DUNELMIA Q Report. S.S. DUNELMIA reported at 0056 G.M.T. that she had been ordered to stop by an armed merchant raider. (The report was cancelled on 20/5).

Search for.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Search for SCHEHERAZADE. PRINCE DAVID left Bermuda at 1303Q today to search for and intercept French S.S. SCHEHERAZADE bound for Casablanca, which was in 27° 30' N 80° 0' W at 0805Q/16. U.S. Naval aircraft will co-operate in the search.

Sailings of German ships. German ship NIAKOTIS sailed from Antofogasta 2100 G.M.T. today and FRANKFURT from Talcahuano at 2035 G.M.T. BOGOTA and QUITO left Coquimbo at 1910.

U-Boat Campaign.

Freetown area. It is reported that Norwegian tanker ALFRED OLSEN, in ballast was shelled by a S/M at 2230 G.M.T./9 in 20° 59' N 20° 36' W after being missed by torpedo. Ship was set on fire and abandoned.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ALAUNIA.
DERBYSHIRE.

Your 2252/14. It is most important that each A.M.C. should carry its maximum number of passengers.
(D. of P. 0003B/17 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

M/L's as Minelayers.

Your 1144/25/4/41. How many M.L.'s of First Flotilla are now available as Minelayers with fittings and trials completed.
(D.D.O.D.H. 1607B/17 to C. in C. Nore).
Reply nil.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1901B/17).

BLACK SWAN
STORK.

Intend to transfer BLACK SWAN and STORK to your command as from 20/5.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1739/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

4 Destroyers for C. in C. S.A.

Attacks on our trade in the Freetown area have made it imperative that we should as soon as possible reinforce C. in C. S.A. with a Division of Destroyers.
2. It has therefore been decided that 4 Vees should be sent from Home resources, of which 2 should come from the Portsmouth and 2 from the W.A. Commands.
3. C.'s in C. concerned are requested to detail destroyers for this service, and to report to Admty their names, and indicate when they will be ready to sail.
(V.C.N.S. 2051B/17).

Movements.

GALATEA
EDINBURGH
ARETHUSA.

Scapa arrivals GALATEA, EDINBURGH, ARETHUSA.
(A.C.O.S. 0120B/17).

RODNEY

Scapa departure RODNEY with SOMALI, BEDOUIN, and ESKIMO.
(A.C.O.S. 1001/17).

My 1617B/16. After position D amend to read as follows.
(D.O.D. H. 1727B/17).

Add to my 1001/17 E.T.A. 1030/18.
(A.C.O.S. 2218/17).

Clyde.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

Clyde-Iceland Ferry.

E.T.A. S.D.S 0100/18.
(LANCASTER 1030/17).

CLYDE.

Your 1019B/16. Approved.
(V.C.N.S. 1037B/17 to F.O.S.)

Operations.

CONQUEROR.

My 1617/13. Sailed. E.T.A. 1800/17. Code word SHARP III. Speed 12 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0856B/17 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Arrived 1810 CONQUERER.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1812/17).

IZARRA (French) intercepted.

Have placed armed guard of 3 Officers 7 men on board Vichy 4 masted auxiliary schooner IZARRA, Newfoundland Bank Fisherman. Am escorting IZARRA until instructed where to send her. My position 045° 46' N 029° 10' W course 36°. Speed of IZARRA 4½ knots short of fuel. Have taken 5 anti-British members of her crew on board.
(REGISTAN 0900Z/17 to Admty).
Your 0900/17. Sail IZARRA for St. Johns, Newfoundland. And then comply with F.O.C.N.P. 1902/14.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1641B/17 to REGISTAN).

Jan Mayen.

Your 1631B/14. 6 Megacycles being used. Communication established at 0730, 1130, 1530 and 1930 daily. If communication is not established, hourly calls are made. During last month there have been only 2 or 3 failures to establish communication and strength of signal is normally good. Army number 11 sets are used at both ends.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1627/17).

EDINBURGH.....

MOST SECRET.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

EDINBURGH for Biscay Patrol.

EDINBURGH is to proceed passing Hoxa boom at 1900/18 to proceed between latitudes 044° N and 046° N with the object of intercepting enemy shipping bound from and to Bay of Biscay ports. EDINBURGH should not normally operate to Eastward of longitude 020° W.
2. Admiralty's 1610/B/16 (re HOHENFELS) and information regarding recent interceptions on arrival pass to EDINBURGH.
(C. in C. H.F. 1904B/17 to F.O. 18 C.S.)

British Air Activity.

Escort.

Expect one Blenheim as escort from 0300 till -daylight.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0155/17 to RYMEDALE).

Patrol

Air Patrol 3.9 in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0600/17).

Thames Estuary A/A Ships.

Cancel my 2204/30/4.
(C. in C. Nore 1045B/17 to H.Q.F.C.)

Your 1408B/16 May entirely concur. Although A/S Patrols off Muckle Flugga are an essential requirement the effort required to maintain Walrus aircraft when at buoys is not commensurate with the results obtained. Understand only one Walrus at Sollum Voe is now serviceable. The crews have been trained to operate from catapaults for Fleet work and Aircraft spotting and would be better employed in ships.
(C. in C. H.F. 1203B/17 to Admty).

Air Search.

Focke - Wulf report 1130/17 46 30 N 08 40 W. Considered that this aircraft may be in vicinity of enemy shipping proceeding towards Bordeaux. One Sunderland to carry out creeping line ahead search due West from Base Line of 0530 W between 4430 N and 4600 N. To prudent limit of endurance. Aircraft to report and shadow enemy forces worthy of attack by striking force.
(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1301/17 to H.Q. 19 Group).

Smoke Screen.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.(contd).

Smoke Screens.

Your 1956/12 and 2346/12. Your views in last sentence of former fully agreed and are being represented to appropriate authorities. 2. Future policy in regard to use of smoke now under consideration on highest plane and decision will be communicated.
(D. of L.D. 1442B/17 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Own A/C fired on.

Your 1740/27. B.J. 125/F.O.6. Enquiry has failed to produce any evidence of naval or merchant ships being concerned in this incident.
(D. of L.D. 1443B/17 to Air Ministry F.O.6)

Boulogne and 2 M/V's off Hardelot bombed.

On Night 16/17 at Boulogne, bombs and incendiaries were dropped in the dock area and several explosions between docks were observed. Two ships at anchor off Hardelot were attacked. Results unobserved.
(H.Q.B.C. 1803/17).

Anti E-Boat Carrier sweep.

In view of enemy R/C today I would like an evening clearance search of approx. area between 58° 40' N and 59° 40' N. and between 002° W and long. 000°. Object to intercept surface ships particularly E Boat Carriers approaching to attack during dark hours.
(C. in C. H.F. 1953B/17 to C. in C. Rosyth).
Your 1953/17. This is being done.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2059/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

NADINE fires on own a/c.

H.M. Trawler NADINE reports opening fire on a Wellington Bomber at 1255B today in 52° 14' N 01° 55' E. Aircraft approached head on at 500 feet. Challenge was made six times and no reply received. Recognition signals were dropped after NADINE had opened fire. Fire was opened at a range of 700 yards.
(C. in C. Nore 2213B/17).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ARCHANGEL
(Bombed 16/5.)

Tugs proceeding from Peterhead. Fraserburgh Life Boats, launches, Auxiliary Patrol Trawler STONEFLY will also assist.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0116/17 to BLANKNEY).
Am alongside taking off passengers as water is gaining.
(BLANKNEY 0335B/17).
Proceed to Aberdeen forthwith and land wounded.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0614/17 to BLANKNEY).
Transport ARCHANGEL 2448 tons with 400 troops from Kirkwall to Aberdeen was bombed and badly damaged by enemy aircraft at 2330 16/5 when 13 miles north of Kinnairds Head. Survivors including 60 wounded arrived Aberdeen at 0840 in BLANKNEY. Vessel in tow of tugs ABEILLE IV and ATTENTIF was off Rattray Head at 0838/17 making good 4 knots proceeding towards Aberdeen.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0905/17).
Following summary of report of C.O. BLANKNEY At 2356/16 in 57° 55' N 02° 03' W whilst escorting S.S. ARCHANGEL with troops to Aberdeen course 140° speed 15 knots. (Weather) Attacked by three A/C believed Heinkel by low level bombing. Six bombs dropped from height 60 feet estimated 500 lbs. impact. Three direct hits on ARCHANGEL by bombs described as being chained together. A/C engaged by BLANKNEY with all armament and hits claimed but no certain destruction. ARCHANGEL in tow of rescue tug ABEILLE and ATTENTIF attempted to make Aberdeen but now report bulkhead gone and making water fast. Tugs endeavouring to beach ship vicinity Ythan River about eight miles northward from Aberdeen. 99 casualties including 12 dead landed at Peterhead and Aberdeen, mostly military but some mercantile ratings.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1227/17).
Leave area in time to return to Scapa by sunset.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1421/17 to BLANKNEY).

Woolston bombed.

At 0150/17 incendiary bombs caused fire at N.S. Depot Woolston. Some Minor damage to stores.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0556B/17).

STATESMAN.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

STATESMAN. (British, 7939 Tons) Bombed in 56° 44' N., 13° 45' W. (Liverpool: Recd. 0646/17.)
Detail one Corvette to assist STATESMAN.
(C. in C. W.A. 0718/17 to BOADICEA.)
PRUDENT and RESTIVE are to proceed in company with all despatch to assist.
STATESMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0733B/17 to PRUDENT.)
If in vicinity pass position 056° 46' N., 013° 46' W., and pick up survivors in 2 boats from STATESMAN.
(C. in C. W.A. 0943B/17 to ST. APOLLO.)
Ship has sunk. RESTIVE return to Loch Foyle PRUDENT to Campbeltown.
(C. in C. W.A. 0951B/17 F.O.I.C. Greenock 1000B/17.)
Am with 2 life boats till 1100. E.T.A. 1315. (A/C. No.97 1040/17.)
Estimate arrival at STATESMAN 2030B.
(HEPATICA 1505B/17.)

Convoy SERVICE bombed.

SERVICE was attacked at 1010 in position 200 degrees Portland Bill 5 miles by two M.E.109. 4 bombs dropped from very low level near rear ship but no damage reported.
Air escort was in area.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1155B/17.)

Harwich bombed.

From 2300/16 to 0445/17 A/C dropped bombs on Power House and in vicinity Parkeston Quay and on Harwich Town. The latter may be of new type. Towards dawn flares were also dropped over the harbour. No Naval Damage or Casualties
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1345B/17.)

Scapa Flow.

At 1613 E/A came in from the west and passed over northern part of Flow to eastward. E/A was seen by ground defences and reported as Ju., 88. Low Cloud. E/A plotted from 20 mins., west of Stromness and last plot received when 20' east of Sanday Island.(A.C.O.S. 1805/17.)

ALA (Norwegian, 933 Tons.) ARTHUR WRIGHT (British 1091 Tons.) bombed.

ALA attacked by German Aircraft at Shoreham. Towed in and beached in 3 fathoms of water to west of W.pier, well clear of fairway.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1849/17.)

/At about.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (contd).

ALA (Norwegian, 933 Tons.) ARTHUR WRIGHT (British 1091 Tons). bombed. (contd).

At about 1640/17 ARTHUR WRIGHT, BOTNE, and ALA left convoy for Shoreham. When about 5 miles S. of Shoreham ARTHUR WRIGHT reported 2 enemy planes from seaward, which bombed ALA amidships, and then attacked ARTHUR WRIGHT with bomb which missed but exploded close enough to seriously damage superstructure and engine room. Two enemy planes then appeared from shoreward and machine gunned her causing further damage which will necessitate refit. Gunner of ARTHUR WRIGHT claims he damaged enemy plane with 12 pdr. Plane subsequently fell in the sea. Rescue boat ADVANCE with lifeboat put to sea but could find no trace of enemy airmen or plane. ALA was by this time abandoned in sinking condition. ADVANCE stood by while BOTNE took her in tow subsequently assisted by tug HAROLD BROWN, and she was beached about 1½ cables West of entrance pier. ALA sustained serious damage in midships, engine room section, and stewardess was killed. No other casualties.
(R.N.O. Shoreham 2020/17).
Following from Intelligence Officer R.A.F. Tangmere. Coastguard report they witnessed engagement enemy aircraft at 1640/17 and saw 1 Me. 109 attacked by Spitfire and fall into sea, also black smoke of another aircraft as it fell into sea some distance from Me. and south of attacked ship. This appeared to be Junker 88 brought down by Gunner of ARTHUR WRIGHT.
(R.N.O. Shoreham 2110/17).

Unknown Vessel attacked.

Automatic AAAA signal heard by Lands End, at 2040 strength 4 bearing 004°, and by Port Patrick strength 3 bearing 185°.
(Liverpool W/T 2242/17).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

B.S.57. My 1130B/16. Intend to postpone B.S.57. for a few days. Further signal will be made when situation is clearer. Postponement will also enable operations to be carried out nearer high water. PLOVER should not load for the present.
(C. in C. Nore 0026B/17.)

Milford Haven. Port is closed owing to mines dropped by aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0530/17.)
My 0530/17. Port is open subject to local restrictions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1114B/17.)

Operation S.N.9.B. Following received by aircraft from R.A.M. begins:-
Operation S N 9 B completed 0951 ends.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1244/17.)

Harwich. One Blue Mine detonated by 'LL' drifters at 0751/17 in 51° 44.5' N., 01° 10.5' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1427B/17.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Fishing-Boats off Brest. Position 4815N 0520 W. Observed large number of lighted fishing boats in patrol area. A/C report.
(St. Eval 1530/17).

Brest. Brest 1930/17. No change.
(D.D.I.C. 2226B/17).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.72 — 23 British and 9 Allied ships arrived. Commodore, Rear-Adm. Knowles. Cargoes. (D.S. 620, 17/5).

Enemy Broadcast to Greek ships. — Following is a translation of a broadcast by Nordeich in Greek at 1927/16. To all ships in foreign ports:-
1. Telegraph to Ministry of Mercantile Marine where you are, and wait there for our further orders. 2. Ships at sea are to proceed to nearest non-British port and wait there for our further instructions, informing us by telegraph which this port is. 3. All voyages to England are against the interests of Greece, all available tonnage is to be put at our disposal, and must not be exposed to danger of destruction in the German war at sea.
G. Tsolakoglu, Prime Minister.
(Circulation at Request of D.N.I. 1823/17).

BRITANNIC
SOUTHERN PRINCE. — Admty 2014B/13., 1617B/16. A/S escort. Captain (D) 6 in SOMALI, MASHONA, TARTAR, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO. Destroyers to leave convoy at limit of prudent endurance and proceed to Scapa.
(C. in C. W.A. 1925B/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock,etc).

Speed of Northbound convoys. — My 1936/14. In order to avoid delay to ocean going motor ships whose critical speed is 6½ knots the speed of advance of the slow northbound convoys may be increased from 6½ to 7 knots at the discretion of N.C.S.O. Southend. This discretion is only to be exercised in respect of motor ships sailing from the Thames and provided that not more than one or two coastal colliers are cut out and that there is a slow convoy on the following day, when reporting the convoy sailing N.C.S.O. Southend is to state whether the speed of advance is 6½ or 7 knots.
(D.T.D. 2044/17 to C. in C. Nore C. in C. Rosyth).
Cancel my 2044/17.(D.T.D., 1614B/20).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Units.

At 2313/16 German Naval unit bearing 329/2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0045Z/17 to FURIOUS, SCARBOROUGH, HAVELOCK, Trawlers of Western Patrol.)
Following D/F Bearings of enemy unit.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0123Z/17 to N.A. Stn).
My 0123Z. Para 3 refers to U-Boat to westward of Freetown.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0231/17).
My 0007B/17. Bearings from Empire Stations appear to place this U/B to Eastward of Cape Verde Islands.
(D.D.I.C.0251B/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ATLANTA

Possibility Italian ATLANTA is about to sail from Southward. Description.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0135/17 to N.A. Stn).
At 0142 German U-Boat bearing 300° third class from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0315Z/17 to FURIOUS HAVELOCK, SCARBOROUGH, Trawlers Western Patrol.)
See also U-Boat Campaign.

SHEHERAZADE (French).

W.P.P.S.81. Cancel W.P.P.S.278. SHEHERAZADE should be intercepted if possible and sent in. She carried U.S. observers for French North Africa, and interception should be reported as soon as circumstances permit.
(Head of M. 0153B/17 to A.I.G. 24 & 39 V.A. Force H., C. in C. A.W.I.)

IRENE ROSETTE (Belgian).

Following received from British Consul, Cadiz (begins) Belgian motor fishing smack IRENE ROSETTE, 229 of 58 tons gross arrived here yesterday afternoon from Bayonne to repair slight damage to motor. Master is unable to decide whether to hand ship and crew to British Naval Authorities fearing German reprisal on family in Belgium. I am insisting that he does this and will telegraph you subsequent developments. Reference 1200/16. (Ends).
(S.O.(I) Gib., 0351/17 to Admty).

RENOWN refit.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd),

RENOWN Refit. — It is desired to take advantage of probable damage to German Battlecruisers to refit RENOWN. Request you will transfer your Flag to REPULSE or ARK ROYAL and sail RENOWN for U.K. before Operation "ROCKET". (V.C.N.S. 1311B/17 to F.O. Force H).

CLYDE — Sail CLYDE for Gibraltar 18/5. (F.O. (S) 1321B/17 to S.3).

Force H. — Arrival S.O. Force H in ARK ROYAL RENOWN SHEFFIELD, WRESTLER, FEARLESS, FORESTER, FURY. (S.O.(I) Gib., 2106/17 to Amdyt amended 0916/18).

South Atlantic.

KING EDWIN NAIRNBANK. — Request you will instruct S.S. KING EDWIN and NAIRNBANK to proceed direct to Cape without bunkering if possible and omitting call at Freetown. Bunkers if required to be obtained at St. Vincent (Cape Verde). (A.C.N.S.(T) 0020B/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

Ships to Avoid Freetown. — No ships are to proceed to Freetown. unless they have cargo, passengers or a Commodore for that port. Ships requiring bunkers should call at St. Vincent (Cape Verde) or Walfish Bay for coal and Azores or St. Vincent (Cape Verde) for oil. (D.T.D. 0022B/17 to BOADICEA, EGRET, TARTAR, WALKER. for Commodores of O.G.62, OB 321, and OB 322).
Following have been instructed to proceed direct to St. Vincent, C.V.I:- ANGLO-INDIAN TEWKESBURY. STORNEST, GASCONY, CORDILLERA.
Following have been re-routed: ROWALLAN CASTLE, LITIOPA, CALUMET.
(D.T.D. 2206B/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

Evacuations.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Evacuations from Gibraltar.

Your 2312B/16. ARUNDEL CASTLE sailed Gibraltar. My 1251N/16. NEA HELLAS arrived 16/5 has accommodation for 320 only, remainder -of troop deck filled cargo at Cape. Should ship be sent Gibraltar or U.K. direct?.
(C. in C. S.A. 1003N/17 to Admty).
C. in C. S.A. 1003N/17 NEA HELLAS should be sailed for Gibraltar.
(D.O.D. (F) 1745B/17 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

MOUZINHO and BANFORA repatrioes.

Reported Portugues MOUZINHO due Bissau today (4 groups missing) at that port, suggested she might first proceed to Freetown to embark balance of passengers and crew of BANFORA for transport to Casablanca, not calling Dakar. Probable numbers of passengers
(C. in C. S.A. 1117N/17 to N.A. Lisbon.)

Independent ships calling Azores.

Admty 0001/1 sect. IV para 5 amended by A.M.2142/9 and 0004/11. Request information whether these instructions to call at Azores or Cape Verde Islands apply to all independent homeward bound transport requiring bunkers whether carrying service personnel or not.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1137B/17 to Admty).

CRITON (French.)

Your 2323/16 Token Crew is available.
(C. in C. S.A., 1218N/17 to Admty).

CUMBERLAND NEWCASTLE.

Desired that CUMBERLAND should return to U.K. to refit. Request you will arrange for NEWCASTLE to relieve her and take over the Flag of R.A.S.A.D. Unless it is essential for her to call at Freetown she should proceed direct to relieve CUMBERLAND, if necessary refuelling at St. Helena.
(V.C.N.S. 1308B/17 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.S.A.D.)

ST. LOUIS GABON (V. French).

Vichy French S.S. ST. LOUIS reported sailed Westward from Lome P.M./14 escorted by Sloop LA SURPRISE cargo maize and palm oil. S.S. GABON reported still at Lome 14th/5.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1330N/17 to Admty).

AEQUITAS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

AEQUITAS
AUCTORITAS
MONBALDO
(Italian)
NORDERNEY
(German).

Rio de Janeiro reports local press states AEQUITAS and AUCTORITAS are preparing for sea. No confirmation of this beyond permit requested for former to embark 1100 tons bunker coal. Nothing loaded by Italian ships yet and dry docking necessary as ships very dirty, early sailing therefore unlikely (ends). At Para MONBALDO has Lighters alongside. A.l., cargo being moved to make space for 500 tons bunkers due to arrive shortly. Monbaldo and NORDERNEY maintaining steam.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2031Z/17 to S.A.D.)

Destroyers.

Reinforcement. (D.O.D.(H) 2051B/17) (See Home Commands, Policy).

W.S.8 A.

My 1301/12 0758/16 (1) W.S.8.A was delayed 16 hours. MAURITIUS is to detach STRATHAIRD from convoy as necessary to arrive Capetown 0830B/24. STRATHAIRD should sail from Capetown to rejoin convoy in daylight same day.
(2) C. in C. E.I. is requested to sail HAWKINS to R/V with W.S.8 A. in 35° S 17° 5' E at 1500B/24 to relieve MAURITIUS who is then to proceed to Simonstown.
(C. in C. Africa 2119H/17 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown., MAUTITIUS, C. in C. E.I.)

LECH
(German).

Unconfirmed Press report of 16/5 says arrived at Pernambuco. (D.S.620) Denied (D.S. 621).

Swiss
Cargoes.

Your 1431/16 (N.T. in W.D.) These vessels are time-chartered to Swiss Govt. and are discharging their cargoes at Lisbon Markings are part of arrangement for safe conduct which has been granted by German and Italian Governments.
(D.T.D. 2126B/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Convoy

Following received on 11200 Kc/s. Med. A/C from Med. A/C No 1. P. C and S. of 5 M/V's 2 destroyers are 38.32 N., 20.40 E (Nore W/T, 05432/17) 105° 8 knots.

PERSEUS

Alexandria A/S sanctuary will be in force 0300 to 0700/18 for PERSEUS arriving. Also between 1700 and 2100/18 for PERSEUS leaving. All times G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0848C/17 to Med. Fleet, Force "I")

SALZBURG (German)
CAMPINA (Roumanian)

Following from Yugo Slav Military Attache Bucharest, arrived here yesterday.
(a) the three German steamships for Aegean 14/5 carried ammunition and contact mines
(b) German ship due to sail from Constanza for Samsun or Trebizond this week-end with war material fro Iraq in transit through Turkey (this must be SALZBURG
(c) Roumanian CAMPINA had a cargo of aviation petrol.
(d) Salonika being prepared for use of Italian naval units.
(e) German R.A. Fleischner appears German S.N.O. Roumania, and has 17 staff officers.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 0955/17 to S.O.I. Med.)

Operational Summary No. 341 up to 1200 hrs. 17.5.41. in four parts.
Night 14/15. Enemy dropped several bombs on Tobruk, no damage no casualties. Day 15/5 1 Ju. 88 bombed Tobruk harbour. No damage no casualties. Enemy bombed Sollum barracks. Day 16/5. Enemy bombed Tobruk harbour and troops within perimeter. Damage negligible.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1159/17)

GLENGYLE force for Tymbaki.

On arrival Alexandria GLENGYLE is to embark Army personnel and stores referred to in M.E.Q.M. 2/114/10 of 16th/5 and sail sos as to arrive Tymbaki, Crete by 2359/18. Escort AUCKLAND, VOYAGER, WATERHEN. Unloading is to be completed by 0400/19 when ships are to return Alexandria. S.B.N.O. Suda Bay report arrangement for finding beach. (C. in C. Med. 1213C/17 to GLENGYLE etc.)

/My 1213C/17...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.5.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

GLENGYLE force for Tymbaki. -Contd.	My 1213C/17. Approx. load is 30 officers 670 other ranks, four Bren carriers, up to four 15 cwt. trucks, 30 tons of baggage, 43 tons of supplies, 20 tons of (?ammunition), 21 tons of P.O.I. (C. in C. Med., 1425C/17 to GLENGYLE) My 1213/17. Sail about 2300/17 or as soon as ready passing through 64, 132 and 45, speed of advance 15 knots. R.V. with COVENTRY in accordance with my 1831/17. Return to Alexandria by same route. (C. in C. Med., 2001/17 to GLENGYLE)
Suda Bay Operations.	Report situation even if negative at 0900, 1500 and 2100 daily. Fleet operations are based on what is happening in Port Alfred. (C. in C. Med., 1239C/17 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay)
ABDIEL	Is expected to arrive Haifa about 0001/18 Mines are to be embarked immediately on arrival. (C. in C. Med., 1241C/17 to N.O.I.C. Haifa)
ABA Bombed	Following has been read from WIDNES: Hospital ship ABA attacked by plane 34:- 15 North. 26.10 East. (Malta W/T 1305/17, 1350/17)
Minelaying Operations MAT 1,2.	C. in C. Med. 1355C/17. Mediterranean Volume.
F.O. 7 C.S.	Request you transfer your flag to WARSPITE p.m/18 and sail 2000/18 taking WARSPITE VALIANT, ORION, AJAX, NAPIER, KIMBERLEY, JANUS, ISIS, HEREWARD, DECOY, HERO, GRIFFIN under your orders, if HERO and GRIFFIN cannot be ready by 2000 they are to sail on completion to join you. (? S.O. 7th D.F.) in WOOLWICH report on HERO and GRIFFIN Further orders follow. (C. in C. Med. 1425/17 to F.O. 7 C.S.)

/Minelaying....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.5.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Minelaying threat to Shatt El Arab and Red Sea.	Threat from use by Germans of Syrian aerodromes, mining, attacks on Merchantmen, etc. Measures to be taken. (V.C.N.S., 1457B/17 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.
ATLAS German.	Departure Cartagena 16/5 for Marseilles. (Cartagena, 1510/17 to D. of S.T.)
Crete M.T.B. Patrol	My 1437/16. Nothing seen in Elaphonisos Channel. Flare observed on Kithera which may be form of "Homer Beacon" for aircraft Owing to engine failure patrol carried out by one M.T.B. only. M.T.B's 216 213 arrived a.m./17. Only 2 M.T.B's serviceable Enemy air R/C (?) Suda Bay during forenoon/ 17. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1551C/17 to C. in C. Med.)
Malta Air Patrols.	Combined Services report Malta up to 1600 hours 17/5. Times G.M.T. Enemy activity. Nil, beyond 1 morning high level escorted recco. In anticipation of visits by enemy aircraft standing patrols are now being employed. In this case patrol was up and above enemy but unfortunnately W/T trouble prevented interception. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1600/17)
Suda Bay Bombed. Ships damaged.	Suda Bay dive bombed by about ten aircraft at 1600/17. ELEONORA MAERSK hit and on fire. THEMONI very near miss burning. One small bomb on pier, no serious damage. VOLO alongside, no serious damage. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1651/17 to C. in C. Med.,) (2) ELEONORA MAERSK bombed amidships on fire ADAMSMONI (? THEMONI) blew up after hit forward.

/VOLO.....

MOST SECRET

17.5.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Suda Bay Bombed. Ships damaged -Contd.	VOLO slight hull damage from direct hit on quay. ARAYBANK burnt out. LICHAI SUMD ships cargo still burning. KYTHERA burnt out bridge to forecastle bunkers and cargo on fire. LEICLN (?LOGICIAN) (b) towed from quay and beached. NICOLAOU OURANIA fire extinguished bunkers and starboard plating damaged. (SSTO Suda Bay 1756/17) ELEONORA MAERSK is on fire and is not available for oiling. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1915/17 to C. in C. Med.) Situation report 2100/17. ELEONORA MAERSK burning fiercely. Endeavouring to confine fire to after hold. THEMONI blew up and sank. LOGICIAN machinery seriously damaged and cannot steam. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 2227/17 to C. in C. Med.)
THEMONI Sunk	
GLENROY PROTECTOR VAMPIRE	My 1617C /15 (N.T. in W.R.) arrangements cancelled. GLENROY and PROTECTOR should unload Alexandria. A Lighter No 12 should unload minelaying gear and return Alexandria. Naval party for Sollum should return Alexandria from Mersa Matruh. VAMPIRE to remain under orders of R.A. Alexandria. N.O.I.C. Sollum with signalmen to remain for Liaison duty with Mob. Force. (C. in C. Med., 1727C/17 to S.O. Force I R.A.(D) etc.)
NAIAD PERTH	NAIAD, PERTH and 2 destroyers return to Alexandria now to arrive p.m/18. (C. in C. Med. 1829/17)
UNDAUNTED Lost.	UNDAUNTED is overdue since 13/5 and must be considered lost. UNDAUNTED was operating in Northern Approaches of Tripoli. There is no news of any enemy claim. (C. in C. Med., 1835C/17 to Admty.)

/German....

MOST SECRET

17.5.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterrancan-Contd.

German & Italian Ships.	My 1731/14 Ankara reports YALOVA bound Mitylene and Chios with foodstuffs passed Chanak 0900/15 Turkish time. ITHAKA reported by Ankara carrying ammunition passed Istanbul 14/5 bound Salonika with CORDELIA loaded grain, ITHAKA and CAMPINA Roumanian tanks fully loaded sailed Chanak 0730/15 for Aegean. PIER LUIGI Italian reported to be loaded 4000 tons grain for Cavello passed Chanak a.m. 16/5 All local authorities informed. (S.O(I) Alexandria, 1846/17 to Admty.)
ABDIEL	As soon as mines are embarked return to Alexandria at high speed. (C. in C. Med. 1851/17 to ABDIEL) Following from ABDIEL E.T.A. 0100/18. Request lights from 0015. T.O.O. 1327/17. (R.A. Alexandria, 1854/17 to N.O.I.C. Haifa)
U-Boats	Suspected in following areas: Two between Kaso Strait and 034° 30' N., Two west of Antikithera Channel North of 035° 00' N., (C. in C. Med., 1919C/17 to Med. Fleet)
Crete Patrol	M.T. Boats will not be patrolling Elaphonisos channel tonight owing to engine defects. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1943/17 to C. in C. Med.)
Suez Canal Mines.	Situation 1930/17. Eight ships swept over northern mined section and eight over southern. No mines have been exploded. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1943C/17 to Admty. etc.)
New Type Mine at Malta.	Your 2120B/16 and my 1921B/16. Suggestions. (V.A. Malta 2105B/17, to Admty.)
DIDO 4 destroyers.	DIDO and 4 destroyers arriving Alexandria 0600/18 from Northward. (Capt. S. 1. 2329C/17 to PERSEUS)

MOST SECRET.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.7 U.S.10B.	Ref. D.S.T.O. Suez 1837/14. Not agreed Military. Ships must discharge Suez. (Middle East, T.H.I. 0140/17 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).
CORNWALL'S ACTION WITH RAIDER.	My 0648/11. Average time from first raider alarm until raider leaves victim sinking appears one and quarter hours except when victim is fully looted. Prisoners and lascar survivors left Seychelles 16/5 for Mombasa. (C. in C. E.I., 0632/17, to Admty etc).
Minesweepers	My 0636/5/5 para one. LAXMI found unsatisfactory and HINRAVATI allocated instead and will sail as soon as skid generator fitted. (2) LILAVATI due Shatt-el-Arab about 22/5. (3) Four skids shipped from Bombay 16/5 two more to follow. (C. in C. E.I. 0652Z/17 to Admty).
TRIPOLITANIA PROMETEO CAPITANO BOTTEGO GIUSEPPE MAZZINI URANIA NAZARIO SAURO.	Italian, hearsay report (D.S. 28/4) of scuttling at Dahlak Island now confirmed. (D.S. 620, 17/5).
CLAN BUCHANNAN.	My 0744/3 and N.O.I.C. Durban's 1840/13. Senior surviving officer from CLAN BUCHANAN reports official mail carried was thrown overboard and seen to sink before boarding party from Raider arrived. (C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/17 to Admty).
HAWKINS	To proceed to Durban arriving p.m./18. (C. in C. E.I. 0730Z/17 to HAWKINS).
CERES	My 0742/11 CERES is to leave patrol to arrive Mombasa a.m./20. (C. in C. E.I. 0732Z/17 to CERES).

Mombasa congestion.....

MOST SECRET.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Mombasa congestion.

Owing congestion of this port and consequent delay bunkering vessels request permission to divert vessels requiring coal and water only to Zanzibar as soon as stocks are available there. Smith Mackenzie are prepared to lay down stocks. But only very limited supplies available at present.
(D.S.T.O. Mombasa 0900Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

A/C lost Samawa.

On return from bombing attack on military Barracks Samawa 15/5 one aircraft of 814 Sqdn. force-landed 3 miles south of barracks and was surrounded by armed natives who opened fire. Crew were rescued by accompanying machines in face of opposition. Machine badly damaged and beyond repair but no time to burn aircraft.
(C. in C. E.I. 1228Z/17 to Admty).

EXETER SHROPSHIRE CORNWALL GLASGOW CANBERRA.

Your 0732Z/12. Intend that EXETER should join your flag temporarily after escorting W.S.8B, and that SHROPSHIRE and CORNWALL should remain on your station for the present. Hoped this will enable you to refit GLASGOW as proposed. A.C.N.B. will be asked if they can still provide a cruiser to relieve CANBERRA as in their 1324Z/25/3. These dispositions are made on the assumption that it remains necessary to retain a force in Persian Gulf.
(V.C.N.S., 1310B/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

AQUITANIA and use of Durban.

D. of S.T.'s 1834B/10. Master of AQUITANIA estimates draught on arrival Durban 34 feet and on sailing 36 feet 10 ins. He protests that Durban is not a suitable port for vessel size of AQUITANIA. She is now ready to sail. Request immediate reply.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1731C/17 to C. in C. E.I., D. of S.T.)
Your 1731/17.
(i) Matter has already been reported to Admiralty and D. of S.T. Following received from N.L.O. Durban. "Port Captain Durban is satisfied he can handle ship in and out at top high water provided weather is favourable with regard to both wind and swell.

Date of arrival.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

AQUITANIA and use of Durban. Contd.

Date of arrival is important as there is very little depth of water to spare. Depth in channel at L W O S is 34 feet. Rise on 26/5 is 5.4 feet but on 3/6 is only 3.9 feet". Subject to orders to the contrary from D. of S.T. ship should be sailed to arrive Durban for high water a.m./28. Ship will be unable to leave Durban before 8/6.
(C. in C. E.I. 2058Z/17 to P.S.T.O. Egypt, (Port Said).

Flying boat.

One Catalina flying boat from Ceylon arrived Diego Garcia 16/5.
(C. in C. E.I. 1750Z/17 to Admty).

Contraband Control, Persian Gulf.

(I) a.m. 0110B/9 regarding introduction of Navicert system in Persian Gulf is being passed all addressees who are requested to communicate its contents to the appropriate local authorities.
(2) Khor Kuwai patrol is to intercept as many ships as possible entering or leaving Gulf and deal with them in accordance with para 5 of A.M.
(3) All British tankers entering or leaving Gulf may be assumed to be in possession of Navicerts N.C.S.O. Harmaq is to ensure that all British tankers leaving are in possession of Navicerts. (4) Commodre R.I.M. and N.O.I.C. Karachi are requested to ensure that name of any ship leaving Bombay or Karachi for Persian Gulf without Navicerts are signalled immediately.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1820/17 to Persian Gulf Force.)

Search for Raider.

Ref. D/F position at 1537Z/17. I am assuming position is within 200 miles of 6° 50' S., 73.40 E. Dispositions. Catalina flying boat from Diego Garcia searching area 18th and 19th. CORNWALL and GLASGOW leave Mauritius in company about 2300Z/17 at 20 knots to search.
(C. in C. E.I. 2122Z/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ERITREA — My 1057/13 A two. Italian sloop ERITREA reported at Mitsubishi dockyard Kobe under repairs.
(C.O.S. Singapore 0303Z/17 to Admiralty D.N.I. Melbourne, S.O.(I) Wellington D.N.I. Ottawa, S.O.(I) Kingston, S.O.(I) Hong Kong, S.O.(I) Colombo.)

BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE. (French). — Departure 17/5 for Manila.
(Saigon 0421Z/17 to D. of S.T.)

Singapore Conference. — Provisional comments on telegraphed summary of agreement No F.E.S.
(1st S.L., 1335B/17) F.E.9 (1st S.L., 1336B/17)
See Lion Copy.

America & West Indies.

"Q" Report DUNELMIA. — Following from Resolution Island (begins) "0056 G.M.T. QQQQ 5823 N 41.26 W DUNELMIA, suspicious vessel has ordered us to stop. 0055/17" Bearing 104 approx. Poor spark signal and weak (ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0330Z/17 to Admty).
My 0330Z/17. Unlikely American.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0331Z/17).
Your 0330Z/17. Have you any further information?
(Admty., 2000B/17) Reply: No. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0157Z/18).

MONTCLARE ALAUNIA. — Your 2311/10. Request MONTCLARE and ALAUNIA be directed to arrive five miles east of Boston Lightship at 2000Z +5 on date of arrival and await pilot. Request definite dates as soon as possibly convenient (ends) 1647/15.
(B.A.R.M., 0615/17 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

Exchange of.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Exchange of Prisoners. Your 1151B/6. U.S.A. Govt. have requested their representative at Rome by telegraph to communicate British Govt's proposal to Italian Govt.
(N.A. Washington, 0920/17 to Admty).

CIRCASSIA My 1744B/13. Proceed direct to Halifax as soon as defects made good.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1016B/17 to Northern Patrol).

Corvettes, Refit in U.S.A.. UKARM 234.
Decided that 2 corvettes are actually to be in hand at a time for refit in U.S.A. where structural alterations to Forecastles and Bridges of these ships are also to be carried out.
Requested you will inform Admiralty of proposed refit programme.
(Controller, 1047B/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

SHEHERAZADE French. In position 027° 30' N 080° 00' at 0705Q/16 course 080° destination Casablanca. Proceed forthwith to carry out curve of search for SHEHERAZADE at 20 knots assuming her mean course from above position lies between 080° and 095° speed 12½ knots. U.S. Naval Aircraft will Co-operate in search. Ship is to be brought into Bermuda under armed guard.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1051Q/17 to PRINCE DAVID).

SOUTH AFRICA. My 2008/7. What is delaying SOUTH AFRICA when is she likely to sail?
(D.T.D. 1157B/17 to N.C.S.O. Aruba).
Your 1157B. Engine repairs under estimated. Sailed 16/5 surveyor.
(N.C.S.O. Aruba 1505/17 to Admty),

TUSCANIA (Italian) renamed MINATITLAN (Mexican flag). Italian ship TUSCANIA, renamed MINATITLAN Mexican Flag sailed Tampico 14/5 for Puerto Mexico.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1609R/17 to Admty etc).

RHAKOTIS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

RHAKOTIS FRANKFURT. (German).	RHAKOTIS sailed from Antofagasta 2100 G.M.T. 17 FRANKFURT sailed from Talcahuano 2035 G.M.T./17. (S.O.(I) Callao 1736/17 to D.N.I. etc).
Dakar Intelligence.	Following from Naval Dep. From Dakar 14/5 Arrived KILISSI from North. Sailed PORTHOS for Conakry. (N.A. Washington 1830/17 to Admty). From Dakar 16/5. War ships present as follows:- Destroyers TERRIBLE and FANTASTIQUE. Cruisers GLOIRE, GEORGES LEYGUES. Battleship RICHELIEU, on which repairs have been carried out, but believed (?outer) starboard propeller and shaft removed. Several small naval craft and several submarines. (N.A. Washington, 1841/17 to Admty).
BOGOTA QUITO (German).	Sailed Coquimbo. Time of origin denotes local time of sailing. (N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1910/17 to S.O.(I) Callao) (S.O.(I) Callao 1914/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Martinique Intelligence.	Following from Navy Dept. From Fort de France 17/5. Sailing of DUC D'AUMALE for New York with 300 refugees, scheduled for to-day, has been cancelled by order of French Embassy Washington. 335 more refugees are expected here soon. Night of 16/5 BEARN returned unexpectedly to port here. (N.A. Washington, 1920/17 to Admty).
S.S. MARQUES DE COMILLAS (Spanish).	My 1809Q/4/5/41. Examination of heavy baggage belonging to enemy national travelling to Germany in Spanish S.S. MARQUES DE COMMILLAS revealed large quantities of contraband which was seized. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2206Q/17 to Admty).

RANPURA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies (contd).

RANPURA
B.H.K. 129

Intend RANPURA to escort B.H.X. 129 and sail from Halifax a.m./21 E.T.A. Bermuda at 1000 Q/23.
(R.A. 3 B.3. 2323/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Marseilles Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dept. From Marseilles (Arrivals and Departures only).
(N.A. Washington 2350/17 to Admty).

Australia.

AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA.

You will appreciate that developments in Iraq have increased cruiser commitments of C. in C; it is, therefore, hoped that you will still be able to attach AUSTRALIA to his Flag when you decide to withdraw CANBERRA for refit.
(V.C.N.S. 1309B/17 to A.C.N.B.) Reply: 0744/19.

New Zealand.

PURIRI
Loss

Your 1927B/15. Loss of PURIRI was announded in morning newspapers of 15/5 but not broadcast. The presence of minefield laid in June. 1940, in Hauraki Gulf is well known in New Zealand and area dangerous on account of mines was publicly notified in New Zealand N. to M. No.25/940. As reason for and locality of loss could not possibly be kept secret in New Zealand no object was seen in suppressing this information.
(N.Z.N.B. 0222/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

IXION (torpedoed 7/5).

86 survivors from IXION torpedoed 7/5 in O.B. 318 landed by NAILSEAMOOR. 900 bags of mail including diplomatic mail lost. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B., 0306Z/17 to D.N.I. Ottawa).

AELYBRYN. (torpedoed 10/5).

HOLYHOCK and ZWARTE ZEE arrived towing steamship AELYBRYN. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1529Z/17 to C. in C.WA).

GAND.

43 Belgian survivors landed from H.M.S. BURWELL ex SS GAND (Belgian); (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1726/17 to Admty). My 1726/17. 4 Belgian Military Gunnrs (D.E.M.S) included in 43 survivors landed. Names forwarded in my 1810/17. At present retained here. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1809/17 to Admty.).
GAND, 5086 tons, bound from Liverpool to Sydney, N.S., in Convoy O.B. 318, was presumably sunk by S/M but no date or position has been reported. (D.S. 622).

ALFRED. OLSEN.

Norwegian tanker ALFRED OLSEN in ballast shelled by submarine at 2230 G.M.T/9 in 02° 59 N. 20° 26 W after being missed by one torpedo. When last seen ship was burning fiercely. Submarine very large with conning tower well forward possibly U.B. whole crew left ship, three survivors arrived Freetown 16/5. Remaining 31 of crew in two boats not yet accounted for. (C. in C.S.A. 2038N/17 to Adty.).

SALOPIAN. (torpedoed 13/5).

Sailed 1445/17 in IMPULSIVE (?11 or 41) Officers and 32 Ratings ex SALOPIAN including C.O. and all those necessary for Board of Enquiry as it is not possible hold Board at Reykjavik under present conditions. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2235/17 toA.C.O.S. C. in C.W.A., Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.5.1941
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2134/16. F.O.C.N.A. 0123Z/17, 0231/17,0315Z/17. See North Atlantic.

1849/16. Your 2034/16 not to Admiralty. At 1849 G.M.T. on 5025 kc/s. Bearings from Home Stations placed an Italian U.Boat in Bay of Biscay approx. 45° 30' N. 4° 00' W. Bearing from Gibralter 215/2 at 1850 G.M.T. not received by Admiralty. (D.D.I.C. 0637B/17 to F.O.C.N.A).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1415B/17).

1345. FORM ORANGE from A/C on Met. Flight. 1 S/M 48.10 N 0910 W - course 138° T., speed 12 knots A/C circled S/M at 600 ft. but could not identify S/M. S/M remained fully surfaced within 15 miles on course 340° T. 2 ships observed coaster type one funnel amdiships one aft. both ships flying French flag. 1255 1 fishing vessel two masted no decks with Missen set vessel square sterned painted green. Auxiliary motor - flying French flag. Vessel was approaching large buoy position 48.25 N 09. 00 W. crew crouched down in bottom of boat on approach of A/C. (Plymouth 1715/17 to 19 Group).
FORM GREEN ref. telephone conversation, one Sunderland to attack and destroy enemy U Boat last sighted on surface in 48.10 N., 9.09 W. at 1345/17 by A/C of Met flight. Course 138° speed 12 knots. Sunderland to carry out creeping line ahead search base line joining posns. 48.040 6.36 W and 47.20 N., 6.52 W., mean line of advance 286° A/C also sighted 2 coastal type MVs flying French flag approx, 15 miles north of U boat in line astern course 340° and large buoy with iron frame superstructure with light on top in 48.25 N. 9.00 W. U boat was in submerged bombing restriction area and is only to be attacked if surfaced or submerging.
(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 1801./17 to Admty.).

/Hunt.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.5.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

Hunt by D.3.

Operations cease 1400Z/17. D.C's expended nil. Request C.O. 30 Wing be informed. (Capt. D.3, 1723Z/17 toC. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F).

1109.

A.L.O. interrogated Captain of Civil Lord A/C (incoming) from Lisbon. States. At 1109 I was flying at 10,000 ft. sighted a S/M on starboard 6 to 8 miles off in 48 N. 9.20 W. course E.S.E. speed 12 to 14 knots. (approx) saw S/M for about 2 minutes. S/M not so big as one sighted 6 weeks ago. Am absolutely definite it was S/M saw him with naked eye as binoculars no good despite repeated requests for good pair binoculars. S/M in the glare of the sun Also position accurate as I had just checked my position. Name of Pilot Verhoeven. (O.I.C., 17/5). Comment. Some useful reports are received from these Civil Aircraft and it would seem to be important for authorities to provide these with adequate binoculars.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C.

Aircraft reports having dropped A/S bombs on N.W. end of Horseshoe shape oil streaks 10 miles long in position 61.56 N., 20.30 W. at 1953. Oil rose more thickly from this point as result. Other aircraft sighted lifeboat with corpse in 62.04 N., 19.40 W. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0047/17 to SCIMITAR, WATCHMAN, GAMBIA, VERBENA.). N.O.I.C. Iceland's (c) 0047/17. Am proceeding toward position. Consider it rather late to do much good. Request instructions. (BURNHAM, 0829/17 to Cdr. D. 12th Escort Group).

By BURWELL.

While escorting CIRCASSIA attacked firm contact in 063° 16' N., 023° 20' W. at 0420 G.M.T/16. Fired 8 d.cs. large oil patch seen. Returned to escort CIRCASSIA after 15 minutes. (BURWELL, 1005/17 to Admty. C. in C.W.A).

By MALCOLM.

MALCOLM attacking firm contact in 062° 40' 024° 30' HELIOTROPE and BURWELL in contact.

(S.O. 12th Escort Group 2341Z/17 toC.in C.W

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.5.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Cruiser redispositions.	An important signal concerning cruiser redispositions was made by the Admiralty this morning.
Cruiser Patrols	EDINBURGH left Scapa Flow this evening to patrol between latitudes 44° N., and 46° N., with the object of intercepting enemy shipping bound from and to the Bay of Biscay ports. The following are believed to be at sea: DRESDEN (left Santos 28/3), BABITONGA (left Santos 25/4) LECH (left Rio 28/4), FRISCO (left Ceara 28/3), FRANCO MARTELLI (Left Pernambuco 28/3) A vessel closely resembling HOHENFELS, which may be Raider No. 16 was sighted on 3/5 in 24° 45' S., 24° 29' W. NIGERIA and KENYA are patrolling S.E. of Iceland. MANCHESTER and BIRMINGHAM sailed this morning to relieve them. CHESHIRE is in N.P. 71. SUFFOLK is to remain on patrol in the Denmark Straits to the reasonable limit of endurance and is to watch especially the passage in both directions close to the ice.
Sabotage	Sabotage is suspected on board JUPITER.
Channel Convoys.	Repeated small air attacks are being made on shipping in the Channel. Fighter escort has failed to prevent these attacks, which may develope into heavy attacks at any time. C. in C. Portsmouth proposes to reinstitute night sailings off escorted groups in his Command during the dark period.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.5.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

Minor attacks were made last night by Bomber Command on Boulogne.

Enemy Air Activity

N.W. Approaches — Convoy H.G. 61 was bombed this morning in 54° 14' 26' W and again this afternoon in 54° 41' N., 13° 8' W. No damage is reported.

W. and S.W. — At 0500 today an aircraft bombed and damaged the coaster JOFFRE ROSE which had been previously beached in Dale Roads (Milford Haven) following bomb damage at sea. At 2230 coaster CLARA MONKS was unsuccessfully attacked off St. David's Head. M.V. BEGERIN reported being bombed at 2313 17 miles west of the South Bishops and is presumed sunk. An unknown ship reported being attacked at 2030 off the South Bishops.

Mining

Belfast — H.M. Drifter JEWEL was mined and sunk in Belfast Lough today.

Thames Estuary. — Minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary was suspected last night. Mines were detonated in the Estuary.

Liverpool — Balloon barrage vessel HILDA was mined off Liverpool this evening and was damaged.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.5.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

NEWCASTLE reports she has intercepted the Vichy French LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT BIE, Marseilles to Madagascar, with 1700 Indo-Chinese troops and cargo, in 21° 31' S., 5° 56' W. and is escorting her towards Simonstown.
NEWCASTLE is to R.V. with CUMBERLAND and is to take over the flag of R.A.S.A.D.
CUMBERLAND is to return to U.K. to refit.

Mediterranean

Western Desert.

Sollum is apparently unoccupied. The military situation prevents our forces from using it at present.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night.

Enemy air activity in Cyrenaica has decreased during the last few days but attacks on Tobruk continued today.

Suez Canal

Traffic in the Canal continues south of Km. 60 only.

Crete

Suda Bay was attacked seven times today. YORK was hit again, oiler OLNA was again set on fire and Corvette SALVIA was damaged. Further heavy attacks were carried out this afternoon. A.A. concentration is insufficient. WIDNES has been damaged. Heavy bombing and machine gun attacks were also made on Maleme, Heraklion and Canea area this afternoon. Heraklion aerodrome was rendered temporarily unserviceable.

German R/C aircraft were unusually active around Crete today. (cf 20/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.5.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

ERLANGEN (German) sailed from Santiago de Chile last night.

Vichy French situation.

It is reported (A 3) that the U.S.A. are blockading Martinique and Guadeloupe. The Navy Dept., Washington state that it is intended to maintain the status quo as regards the French Fleet and French gold now in the West Indies.

No British or Allied shipping is to visit ports in the Antilles or French Guiana pending further instructions.

All unescorted Vichy French merchant ships are if possible to be intercepted and sent into a British port. Interception may be effected anywhere outside neutral territorial waters and Cabo Santa Maria - Cape Neum Antonio line.

U-Boat Campaign

Freetown Area

It is reported that SS CITY OF SHANGHAI was torpedoed at 2240 G.M.T./10 in approx. 6° 40' N., 27° 50' W. The explosion shattered her wireless and she was unable to make a distress signal.

SS PIAKO sailing independently was reported torpedoed at 2035 in 7° 3' N., 14° 48' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Present General Situation.

Present situation. Details. Dispositions desired. Request your views as to ships to be detailed. Names and dates of Cruisers expected available shortly from Dockyards. (1st S.L. 0059/B/18 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

Destroyers for South Atlantic Command.

Admiralty 2051B/17. I have now WIVERN, WILD SWAN, and VANSITTART here and, in view of strain on W.A. destroyers, suggest all three should be detailed for this new commitment. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1317B/18).

Rescue Work by M/L's

It is not now intended to detail any one flotilla or unit of M.L's specifically for Air/Sea Rescue Work. Arrangements should be made locally to back up Air/Sea Rescue Service as prevailing circumstances require observing that the primary duty of M.L.s is to maintain anti E-Boat patrols. (C. in C. Nore 1505B/18).

Movements.

NORFOLK
NIGERIA
KENYA.

Aircraft Report heavy air attacks on Iceland are imminent.
(ii) NORFOLK to proceed Seidis Fiord.
(iii) NIGERIA and KENYA are to proceed Skaale Fiord, Faroes and complete with fuel.
(C. in C. H.F. 0932B/18).
My 0932B/18. If BIRMINGHAM is undamaged. proceed patrol with all convenient despatch.
(C. in C. H.F. 1032B/18 to MANCHESTER BIRMINGHAM).
E.T.A. Seidis Fiord 0130/19 G.M.T.
(C.S.1. 1159B/18 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)
My 0932B/18. Paragraphs 2 and 3 are cancelled Aircraft report has been cancelled.
Cruisers proceed in execution of previous orders.
(C. in C. H.F. 1242B/18).

RODNEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.(contd).

-RODNEY
BRITANNIC.
SOUTHERN
PRINCE.

Admiralty's 2014B/13. In view of slow speed of SOUTHERN PRINCE, I do not like RODNEY proceeding in close company in U-Boat water.
(ii) F.O.C.D.F.H.F. is to sail an additional destroyer to arrive Clyde a.m./21.
(iii) Propose RODNEY and BRITANNIC should proceed together with 4 destroyers, SOUTHERN PRINCE being escorted by the other of these.
(C. in C. H.F. 1734/B/18).
C. in C. H.F. 1734B/ 18. IMPULSIVE detailed.
(R.A.D. 2322 B/18).
IMPULSIVE is to remain at Greenock acting under the orders of Captain (D) 6th.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2350B/18)

ARETHUSA.

ARETHUSA is to sail from Scapa at 1800/19 to take A.C.O.S. to Faroes and Iceland as required by him.
(C. in C. H.F. 2359B/18).

Operations.

Iceland
Faroes
Patrol.

Scapa Departure MANCHESTER and BIRMINGHAM.
(A.C.O.S. 0704/18).

East Coast
patrols.

Tonight EGLINTON, WHITSHED will cover N.68 from dark until S. 92 is met then S.92 until daylight. M.L. patrols at Newarp Light Float and vicinity 54D buoy motor gunboat at Aldeburgh Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore 1013B/18).

Weather permitting carry out following operations tonight.
(1) One unit M.T.B's P.W.9
(2) One Unit M.T.B's Offensive sweep in vicinity of Flushing. Surface craft met East of 2^{o} 40' E may be attacked without challenge.
(C. in C. Nore 1250B/18).

CONQUEROR.....

MOST SECRET.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

CONQUEROR. — Sailed 0955 CONQUEROR.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1110/18).

GIANNA M. (Intercepted 10/5). — Your 1130/17. Destination of prize GIANNA M. Belfast.
(C. in C. W.A. 1356/18 to VANQUISHER).

Biscay S/M Patrol. — Your 1256/13. While it is true that submarines in the Bay of Biscay patrols have recently achieved little success, it is considered that this is probably due to:-
(a) The increasing use of the Spanish Neutral waters route.
(b) The very limited number of submarines available for operations against shipping.
(c) The fact that the U boat on passage to and from his base has become increasingly aware of the menace of the blockading British submarine.
2. It is considered that, for the reasons given by F.O.(S) in his 2359B/13 with which Admiralty concur, the present patrol policy should remain in force.
(V.C.N.S. 1533/18 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Denmark Straits Patrol. — SUFFOLK is to remain on patrol to reasonable limit of endurance. Passage in both directions close to ice requires special watch.
(C. in C. H.F. 1808B/18).

Biscay Patrol. — Scapa departure F.O.C.18th C.S. in EDINBURGH.
(A.C.O.S. 1857/18).

Your 1808B. Is it intended that NORFOLK should reinforce SUFFOLK on patrol at once or remain at Hvalfjord until SUFFOLK is forced to return.
(C.S. 1 2210B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols

Patrol UNST in operation until 0830.
Patrol HORNLI will be flown p.m. today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0556/18).
A/S patrol Sunderland A/C will be flown from 1400 until 2000/18 as follows.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0646/18).
My 0556/18 UNST returned owing to weather.
(C. in C, Rosyth 0648/18).

Signification of prefix APPLES was overlooked when it was given to this aircraft as code word for her task.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0911/18).

My 0556/18 and my 0648/18. UNST in operation from 0900 till 1145.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0920/18).

Request extension of OCCASION and NATION until 1/6 inclusive.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1040/18 to H.Q.F.C.)

My 0646/18. Patrol will now be by Whitney Aircraft from 1730 until 2130. Sunderland has been diverted to search for S/M reported in Aircraft O/201's 1250 and 1300 and will remain in that vicinity until 2300.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1424/18 and 1626/18).

Patrol UNST will be flown from first light. tomorrow.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2230/18).

Smoke Screen.

Your 1442/17. A meeting of all local interests concerned was held under the District Commissioner p.m./16th.
(F.O.I.C.Glasgow 1042B/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

STATESMAN (Bombed 17/5)

STATESMAN sunk at 0745B. Have 50 survivors on board all well. Proceeding Clyde. (HEPATICA 0005B/18).
Report if TROJAN STAR has transferred survivors to you. If so return to Lough Foyle. Otherwise rejoin O.G. 62. (C. in C.W.A. 0120B/18 to HEPATICA).
My 0005 refered to transfer of survivors from TROJAN STAR. In accordance with your 0120B now proceeding to Lough Foyle. (HEPATICA, 0530B/18 to C. in C.W.A).

Iceland.

German long range aircraft may be operating round Iceland (c) this morning. (D.D.I.C. 0058B/18).

Convoy H.G. CLASP.

Help CAMEL. 1 aeroplane bombing convoy position 54° 34' N. 14° 26' W. (? Origin 1032/18).
Convoy CAMEL requires fighter assistance bieng bombed by enemy aircraft in 54° 41' N 13° 8' W. (H.G. Convoy 1705/18).

Thames Estuary.

Enemy aircraft activity in Thames Estuary for night of 17th/18th May was as follows:-
2240 Enemy aircraft bombed and machine gunned M/S Group near B.5 Buoy.
0015 Plane circled over Shoeburyness-Sheppey area and machine gunned Balloons.
0030 Aircraft dropped four bombs at Southend. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1542/18).

ARCHANGEL (Bombed 16/5).

F.O. i/c Aberdeen's 1227/17 C.O. BLANKNEY stated today that bombs were not chained together. Report originated in BLANKNEY but after investigation C.O. entirely discredits it. (C. in C. Rosyth 1547/18).

Convoy W.N. Even.

Convoy MUTUAL is being shadowed bydne enemy aircraft. My p.c. and s. 58° 28' N. 2° 33' W & 146° 8. (GLEANER, 1658/18).
Fighters have been despatched to convoy MUTUAL. (Lyness W/T 1707/18).

/Unknown ship.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.(contd).

Unknown ship attacked.	Attacked 6 miles North West of South Bishops. (Plymouth W/T 2030/18.)
Scapa Flow.	Unidentified aircraft flew over Flow at 10,000 feet 2010 and 2035 today on easterly course. Fighters up but failed to intercept. Fire was opened by shore batteries and ships. Aircraft was not seen. Height of cloud 2,000 to 3,000 feet with patches of clear sky. This may have prevented aircraft obtaining view of the Flow. (A.C.O.S. 2221/18).

Mining.

Milford Haven.	Port is closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0640/18). Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1303/18).
Operation B.S. 61.	Particulars. Minelayer TEVIOT BANK. Cin C. Nore is requested to provide surface escort and to arrange air escort in conjunction with C. in C. Rosyth. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to detail two paddle minesweepers to comply with the requirements of C.O. TEVIOT BANK. To be carried out on 21/5 or as soon after as practicable. (D.D.O.D. M. 1239B/18).
Thames Estuary.	2 S.A. mines detonated as follows at 0625/18. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1431/18).

From 0200 to 0300/18 plots of low-flying A/C at south end of Barrow Deep, possibly minelaying.
At 0252 two heavy surface Explosions, probably Mines, near East Barrow Sand.
At 0625 a Mine exploded spontaneously near East Red Sand Buoy.
(S.O.T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1542/18).

Faroes-Shetland passage.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Faroes-Shetland passage.

Proposed doubling of South end of S.N.4 as soon as possible. Request early remarks.
(D.C.D. H. 1806B/18)
(See Operations Volume).

JEWEL.

(M/S Drifter). Mined and sunk 215° one mile approx from Pile light Belfast Lough. Feared no survivors.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1940/18).

Enemy Intelligence.

Fishing Boat.

Small fishing boat, 2 masted, brown sails, sighted at 2013 hrs. in 48° 42' N 6° 10' W. steering 290°. Hull white, numbers on black background 03-03.
(Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 0028/18).

Suspected Sabotage in JUPITER.

My 1208/18. Investigation into the presence of pieces of boiler tubingin the main steam system of JUPITER reveals that it is most improbable that such could have occurred accidentally, and a suspicion of sabotage exists. Submit that a Board of Enquiry be held.
(Capt. D. Plymouth 1220/18).

Brest.

R/C of Brest at 0820/18 shows SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still present at usual berths.
(D.D.I.C. 1310R/18).

Large Warship.

It is reported that a very large German warship was observed in region of Aalesund on 5/5., believed course north. Graded C.2. This could have been an 8" Cruiser but it is thought probable that the size of the ship is likely to have been exaggerated.
(D.D.I.C. 1802R/18).

E-Boats.

W/T Intelligence suggests that E. boats may be operating to-night.
(D.D.I.C. 1857/18).

Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.(contd).

Enemy A/C report. Following received from No. 105 W/T section Essex Division Chelmsford begins.
A German plane has reported to its base the presence of ten tankers ten miles south of Saint Gowan's Head course 90° speed of between eleven and seventeen knots.
(S.C.I.C. Harwich 2329B/18).

Miscellaneous.

Priority of Signals. Concur with first sentence of your 0029/13/4. It is not considered that a collective address is best solution. Desirable to avoid introducing fresh complications and proposed remedy is to endeavour to limit use of "Most Immediate" to cases where speed outweighs all considerations of security and to encourage use of "Emergency" for all other signals requiring greater degree of priority than "Immediate". It is hoped that "Emergency" will suffice for signalssuch as my 1529/6/4 but will be sufficiently common not to attract undue attention by enemy.
(D.S.D. 0023B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Examination Ports.

All ships (except in convoy, etc)to call at one of the following ports for search. A.M. 0024/22/6/1940 and A.M.S.I. 145 are cancelled, (D. of I.D. 1709B/18 to A.I.C. 12 A.I.C. 19, F.O.I.C. Iceland) (See Lion Copy).

East Coast Convoys.

Admty 2044/17/5.
Most undesirable for the set speeds of convoys to be varied from the programme time table arranged between C's in C. concerned. Not considered that N.C.S.O. Southend should have authority to vary the speed of convoys. Suggest that the supersession of medium speed convoys effected by Admty 1936B/14/5 should be reconsidered. No objection is seen to a medium speed convoy at 7 knots. Necessary that one authority only arranges the programme of East coast convoys.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1129/18 to Admty).

Ships from Iceland.

Cancel my 1359/16/1. Owing to time lost in transmission of cablegrams ships from Iceland (C) are often halfway to U.K. before Admiralty is aware of their movements.
In future the intention to sail is to be cabled and confirmatory message is not required unless time of departure is changed. 48 hours notice is desirable.
(D.T.D. 1205B/18 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Night Sailings Proposed.

In view of repeated small attacks which are being made in the channel, on shipping sailing by day, which the fighter Escort provided has failed to prevent and which may develop into heavy attacks at any time, it is proposed to re-institute night sailing of escorted groups in this command during dark period. This should not affect the schedules of sailings in the Plymouth Command if groups are sailed 12 hours earlier from the Needles.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1247B/18 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Your 1247B/18. This will entail lengthening the total voyage but as you consider it will increase the safety of the convoy I concur. Possiblilty of avoiding necessity for a call at Dartmouth will be investigated.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2014/18 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

H.M. 123.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

H.X.123 42 hours late at R.V. with all ships. Thick fog 29/4 hove-to 1/5. (D.T.D. 1542B/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Commodore, Rear-Adm. H.M. Rogers. 23 British 8 Allied, 3 neutral ships. Cargoes. (D.S. 623, 20/5).

S.C.29 Congratulations on succesful way in which you brought S.C.29 to U.K., all ships now arrived at their destination. (C. in C. W.A. 1804/18 to Rear-Adm. B.W. Barrow).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

LYDD.	My 1959/17. LYDD delayed owing to dynamo defects. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0920/18).
ORCHIS	ORCHIS delayed with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1532B/18).
ULSTER MONARCH.	F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1637B/14. Request information when defect to mounting was first discovered and what steps were taken to effect a remedy. (Vice-Controller, 1553B/18 to V.A.C.T.C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

IZARRA (French.)	Your 0900/17 not to N.C.S.O. St. Johns. Sail captured French Auxiliary Schooner IZARRA for St. Johns, Newfoundland. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0057B/18, to REGISTAN.)
LONDON.	Part company as requisite to pass Northern entrance at 2000/18. (F.O.C.N.A., 0948A/18, to LONDON.)
Gibraltar Evacuation.	Your 2312/16 and C. in C. S.A.'s 1003/17. Can total accommodation of 240 in ARUNDEL CASTLE now be used, this plus 350 in NEA HELLAS will not complete Gibraltar evacuation, and Governor has recommended that no refugees be sent from elsewhere. (F.O.C.N.A., 1046/18, to Admty.) In view of C. in C. S.A. 1251N/16, restriction in para. 1 of my 2312 B/16 may be waived. Ship (ARUNDEL CASTLE) should be sailed as early as possible escorted by LONDON and two "H" class destroyers. Service personnel requiring passage should also be embarked in escorting warships. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1813B/18 to F. O.C.N.A.).
French Ships.	0115/18. French destroyer AVENTURER class escorting French S.S. of about 4000 tons steering 185° 8 knots 290° Cape Espichem 30 miles. Gibraltar 0116/18 French minesweeper ENGAGEANTE, French S.S. MONT VISO laden with number of troops on board, CHELMA deck cargo lorries and steamboats, AMGERIE laden, passed Westbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1455A/18 to Admty., etc.) French Convoys passing Gib., on 16/5, see D.O.R., 19/5.
SCARBOROUGH O.21.	3 heavy ships and screen sail westbound at 0300/19. Keep Netherlands submarine O 21 in company until arrival Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1738A/18 to SCARBOROUGH.)
PORTLAND (German.)	Photographs indicate she is in Bordeaux, but give no confirmation of report that she had been damaged. (D.S.621.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FOSNA
CHINESE PRINCE. FOSNA has been instructed to proceed to Trinidad via new position Y which is 1740 miles 270° from position C, and CHINESE PRINCE to Ponta Delgada via new position Z which is 950 miles 270° from position D. Both bunkers permitting.
(D.T.D. 0024B/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

KING EDWIN,
NAIRNBANK. Proceed direct to Cape without bunkering if possible. If bunkers required call St. Vincent, Cape Verde Is.
(C. in C. S.A., 1018N/18.)
Route. For NAIRN BANK only.
(C. in C.S.A., 1206N/18.)

NEWCASTLE
CUMBERLAND. Admty. 1308B/17. NEWCASTLE is to proceed direct L.31 to take over flag of R.A.S.A.D. from CUMBERLAND unless otherwise directed by R.A.S.A.D. After transfer of flag CUMBERLAND is to be sailed for Freetown at speed of advance 18 knots.
NEWCASTLE should arrive L.31 25/5, will require fuel. Assume Walrus for CUMBERLAND can now wait.
(C. in C. S.A., 1125N/18, to NEWCASTLE, R.A.S.A.D.)
C. in C. S.A's., 1125/18. Proceed to R.V., with CUMBERLAND at F.O. on completion of Duty vide C. in C. S.A's 1225/18.
Report E.T.A., at first opportunity of breaking W/T silence.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2217Z/18 to NEWCASTLE.)

S.S.DEFENDER. To omit call at Freetown and proceed if possible direct to Cape without bunkering.
(D.T.D. 1142B/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

INDRAPOERA. Your 0300/8. Will be sailed from Capetown for Halifax 20/5... [illegible] and should arrive Halifax by 11/6.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1157B/18, to D. of S.T.)

/LIEUTENANT.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT BIE intercepted by NEWCASTLE.	NEWCASTLE reports has intercepted Vichy LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT BIE Marseilles to Madagascar with 1700 Indo Chinese troops, wine and small quantity of explosive in 21° 31' S., 5° 56' W. Ship has coal for 30 days steaming and can make good 9 knots. No sabotage attempt but captain will not co-operate in bringing ship in. She has been ordered to escort ship towards Simonstown. Intend PRETORIA CASTLE now in neighbourhood shall R/V with NEWCASTLE, take over armed guard and prize crew duties, and escort French ship to Simonstown. NEWCASTLE' then to proceed in accordance with my 1125/18. (C. in C.S.A., 1225N/18, to Admty.)
Vichy French Ships.	All unescorted Vichy French merchant ships should if possible be intercepted and sent into a British port. Interception may be effected anywhere outside neutral territorial waters and Cabo Santa Maria-Cape Neum Antonio line. (R.A.S.A.D., 1326Z/18, to S.A. Div.).
CITY OF DURBAN. S.L.75.	Departure 1100/18, CITY OF DURBAN to join Convoy S.L.75. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1521N/18, to Admty.) See also 2349/18.
WISHART.	To leave Freetown 0800/19 proceed to Bathurst to arrive a.m./20 complete with fuel and sail on completion for Gibraltar passing east of Canary Islands speed being adjusted to arrive 1700A/24. (C. in C. S.A., 1721N/18 to WISHART.)
QUEEN OF BERMUDA.	After completing with fuel to proceed through J 35 J 34 B I 34 to St. Pauls Rock which should be examined for presence of shipping thence to operate in H 34 leaving patrol to arrive Freetown by 3/6. Recent D/F indications have shown possibility of surface units in vicinity of 7° 59', 27° W. (C. in C. S.A., 1811N/18, to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)

/HIGHLAND.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

HIGHLAND PRINCESS. NEW NORTHLAND.	Re numbers for Takoradi andLagos. (C. in C. S.A., 2137B/18, to D. of S.T.)
GABON French.	Left Lome 2000/15 steaming East. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2231N/18 to Admty).
Enemy Identification.	Importance of definitely identifying all ships met with at sea is emphasized. In addition raiders themselves German supply ships merchant vessels and prizes may be well disguised possibly as British ships and it is important if any doubt whatever exists ships shall be boarded to establish identity. (C. in C. S.A. 2257N/18, to S.A. Sqdn).
NELSON EAGLE.	St. Helena departure 2359/18 due Freetown outer end of search channel 0800/23. (General St. Helena, 2345/18 to Admty).
CITY OF DURBAN.	Return to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2349N/18, to CITY OF DURBAN) (See also Admty 0056/19).

Mediterranean.

Situation Report 29.	Fleet Operations in accordance with my 1321/15 without further developments. 2. Suda Bay dive bombed 1730/16 by 25 aircraft and 1600/17 by 10 aircraft. Raid 16th LOGICIAN damaged but seaworthy. About 25 casualties amongst Australians loading her. ARAYBANK hit again and NEFIR ?KYTHERA and Greek NICOLAOU OURANIA damaged. Raid 17th ELEONORA MAERSK hit and on ifre. THEMONI near missed.

1. 5 M.T.B.'s.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Situation Report 29.

1 5 M.T.B have now reached Crete and Elaphonisos patrol in force night 16-17. Western Desert. Sollum apparently unoccupied and Military situation prohibits its use by our forces at present. VAMPIRE transported personnel to and from Tobruk night 16/17. Enemy air activity reduced. Malta. See V.A.M. 1903/16 and H.Q.Malta 0330/16. Canal Area. Movement of shipping has recommenced results not yet known.
(C. in C. Med., 0014c/18 to Admty.)

Danger Zone Notice.

H.M.G., gives notice that limits of areas in Mediterranean which have been declared dangerous to shipping in February and April 1941 are extended to include all waters to eastward of a line drawn from Ras Kanais in s direction 024° to point three miles 180° from Cape Kheledonia in Turkey, with exception of Turkish Waters. Any vessel sailing in these areas without permission of British Naval Authorities will do so at own risk and peril.
(Malta W/T 1013B/18 to all stations.)

Enemy Ships, Dardanelles.

My 1755/15 reporting officer now reports that ships were also met by six Italian Destroyers outside Turkish territorial waters. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1130/18, to C. in C. Med., S.O(I) Med., 1855C/18 to Adty.)

Corinth Canal.

Your 1051/17 Consider bombing Corinth Canal quite in-effective with bombs of size available. Mines which arrived for Wellingtons are incomplete and cannot be used at present. Only effective measures that can be taken would be the laying of Cucumbers of Swordfish operating either MALEME or Carrier. None of my Swordfish are available at present. Have you any?
(H.Q., M.E., 1131/18 to C. in C. Med.)

/ABA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

ABA bombed 17/5.

Hospital ship ABA was twice deliberately dive bombed p.m./17 in broad daylight South of Kaso Strait. Request there will be no further delay in giving decision on my 1254/26/4 and that I should now be authorized to capture any enemy Hospital ships met at sea. (C. in C. Med., 1150C/18 to Admty). (W.D. Note. - ABA was damaged, see 1757/21).

Crete bombed.

General Situation unchanged. 2 Single Planes bombing attack and 1 dive bombing attack by 17 planes, Oiler OLNA set on fire again. SALVIA damaged. Engine room and Boiler Room out of action 2 dead and 8 injured. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1151C/18 to C. in C. Med.)

Suez Canal Mined or bombed.

Ops. Summ. 342 up to 1200 hrs., 18/5. Night 17th/18th. About 8 JU.88's and HE. 111's dropped mines or bombs in Suez Canal Zone between Port Said and point south of Suez, enemy also machine gunned from low height. 15 mines or bombs exploded, further 31 mines unexploded. No damage no casualties. Reported 2 enemy destroyed by A.A. fire Port Said 1 destroyed by fighters south of Ismailia. Enemy arrived and departed North-West.

Derna & Benghazi bombed.

Night 15/16. 2 Wellingtons bombed Derna Aerodrome and harbour. Night 16/17 2 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. Derna harbour brightly lighted presumed for ships unloading.

Tobruk bombed.

Day 17/5. 30 enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk harbour and distillery, no damage no casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1218/18).

Rhodes Bombed.

Part 2. Ops. Summ. 342 up to 1200 hrs. 18/5. 4.Dodecanese. Night 16/17th, 2 Wellingtons bombed Maritza aerodrome Rhodes.

Suda Bay.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Suda Bay bombed.	5. Crete. My A.873 17/5 para. 3. Following details enemy attacks Suda Bay and Maleme 16/5 cancel previous report. Between 20 and 25 JU.87's, JU.88's and ME.109's bombed anchorage Suda Bay hitting 2 ships. Our A.A. fire destroyed two enemy and probably destroyed further 2. Day 17/5 20 JU.87's bombed Suda Bay no casualties further 4 enemy subsequently driven off from Suda Bay by A.A. fire.
Hospital Ship bombed.	Sunderland reported British hospital ship being bombed 100 miles South East of Crete. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1219/18.)
Enemy A/C. Recco, Crete.	German reconnaissance aircraft seems unusually active around Crete today 18/5, R/C of Suda Bay made at 0630 and again at 0830 G.M.T. R/C also made of Candia. No evidence of Naval Force sighted at sea. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1246C/18, to C. in C. Med.)
Suez Canal Raid.	Air raid on Suez Canal between 2205/17 and 2357/17. All sections of canal attacked. U.X. No. in canal at km. 40.5 and between km55 and 58.2. About 9 bombs or mines exploded on landing on bank or in canal. One enemy A/c shot down by fighters near Ismailia and possibly another by A.A. at Port Said. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1257c/18, to Admty.)
New Type Mine.	Your 2105B/17 and 1921B/16. Reply. (D.T.M. 1314B/18 to V.A. Malta.)
Corinth Canal.	Your 1042 B/12. Admiral Turle was directed on 8/3 to concert (?) all necessary measures with other services.for blocking Corinth Canal. On 22/4 he was also authorized to take up a ship for blocking duty ? deeper measures proposed using explosives. Actual task was issued to Lieutenant (?) Cumberlege and method used was reported in N.O. i/c Suda Bay's 1214/8 to Adty. Two. It has not yet been possible to ascertain exactly what happened nor why a ship was not used as directed. Lieutenant Cumberlege was under the impression his efforts (?) had been successful. (C. in C. Med. 1430C/18 to Adty.)

/EMPIRE SONG.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

EMPIRE SONG. (mined 9/5.)	V.A. Malta's 2112B/16. Desirable to find out as much as possible about loss of S.S. EMPIRE SONG. Request formal enquiries be held at Alexandria, Malta, and Gibraltar if necessary in order that all important witnesses may be interrogated. (V.C.N.S. 1434B/18 to C. in C. Med., F.O. Force H., V.A. Malta.)
CAPO ARMA (Italian.)	My 1650/10. Agents have produced bank guarantee sum mentioned and ship consequently released. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1555/18 to C. in C. Med.)
Italian Force Taranto.	Reported that all available light units of Italian fleet will assemble in Gulf of Taranto on 15/5. Graded D2. (D.D.I.C. 1622B/18 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
M.T.B.'s Crete.	2 M.T.B's will be patrolling in Elaphonisos Channel during night 18/19. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1703/18.)
Operation Splice.	From a signal made by S.O. Force H to V.A.M. 17/5, it became apparent S.O. Force H under impression Sunderland and Marylands being sent to R.V. for escorting Hurricane formations. This was surprising after your A.170 8/5 to Air Ministry. After consulting with Naval Authorities here have decided to send three Marylands to R.V. to escort first three formations leaving fourth and fifth formations to be led in by Fulmars with experienced observers. This decision influenced by fact that Naval Authorities here considered S.O. Force H hard pressed to find really experienced observers in such numbers required for all three operations. Further my A.802, 17/5. Request for 4 Wellingtons escort duties Malta to you made as extra insurance against non-arrival delivery Wellingtons from Gibraltar. (H.Q. Malta, 1725/18, to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.)

/CACHALOT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

CACHALOT TETRARCH. CACHALOT proceed so as to spend daylight/20 off Apollonia thence proceeding (route) direct arriving Alexandria Sanctuary 0500 C/22. If you are already to eastward Apollonia report p.c. and s. TETRARCH leaves patrol ? spending the day 22/5 off Apollonia thence routed as CACHALOT arriving Sanctuary 0500.C/24. British units are operating between Crete and Libya and traffic may be met between Tobruk and Alexandria. (Capt. S.I, 1731c/18, to CACHALOT, TETRARCH.)

TRIUMPH. Reports on return to Alexandria from patrol boarding and sinking a 400 ton schooner off Marsa Brega. TRIUMPH also carried out a bombardment of Apollonia, firing 48 rounds. (D.O.R., 19/5.)

GLENGYLE operation. GLENGYLE AUCKLAND COVENTRY VOYAGER WATERHEN E.T.A. Tymbaki Beach 2359/18. Embarked in GLENGYLE 680 personnel 2 trucks 4 Bren carriers. M.E. request few trucks to meet to assist beach clearance if possible. Pass to Crete forces. (C. in C. Med., 1816C/18, to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.)

PERSEUS. My 0848/17. S/m sanctuary is extended till 0200/19 G.M.T. for PERSEUS leaving. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1821C/18.)

Flags of C. in C. F.O.7C.S. Flag of C. in C. Med., Fleet will be transferred from WARSPITE to MEDWAY and Flag of F.O.C. 7th C.S. from ORION to WARSPITE at 1900/18. Signals for F.O.C. 7th C.S. are to be directed to WARSPITE from that time, correspondence is to continue to be sent to ORION. (C. in C. Med., 1903/18 to Med. Stn.)

PERSEUS. Leaves Alexandria about 0400/19 (route). (Capt. S.I., 1925/18, to C. in C. Med. Amended 2215C/18.)

/Suez Canal.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Suez Canal Raid. Situation 1930/18. Canal raid between 2205 and 2357/17 by about 8 enemy aircraft. 6 unexploded mines dropped in Canal at K.m 40.5 54.9, 55.1, 57.9, 58 and 58.6. About 20 bombs or mines exploded on land or in Canal. No damage or casualties. 1 enemy aircraft shot down by fighter in village near Ismalia caused 10 native casualties and 1 shot down in sea by Port Said A/A. Traffic in Canal continues south of Km. 60 only. No mine exploded today. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1941C/18 to N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

Movements. Summary 202 ABDIEL due Alexandria early 19th from Haifa. GLENGYLE, COVENTRY, AUCKLAND VOYAGER, WATERHEN due Messara Bay 0001/19 sail Alexandria 0400/19 through (?305) 45 132 and 64. KOS 19 and 1 A (?,) proceed direct at six knots Alexandria to Messara Bay due about 19th. then returning Alexandria. 5th D.F. operating from Malta. (C. in C. Med., 1950C/18 to S/M's Med. Fleet.)

M.W.8. C. in C. Med's, 1108/14. Propose to commence loading CLAN CHATTHAN, CLAN LAMONT, CLAN CAMPBELL for M W 8 on completion of discharge of present cargo, do you concur? NEW ZEALAND STAR sustained damage on voyage to Egypt, extent cannot be ascertained until completion of discharge. (11) Is fourth vessel required for M.W.8?
(P.S.T.O. Egypt. 2001C/18 to C. in C. Med.)

Suda Bay. bombed. A/A defence. Situation report 2100. General situation no change. Unloading today seriously delayed owing to more frequent and heavier raids. Bombers as well as dive bombers employed and attacks are being pressed home. Heavy attacks 1700 and 1800. Approx. (?70) heavy bombs on harbour and nearby shore today. Reorganising A.A. defences to provide umbrella over pier area but A.A. concentration is insufficient. Local patrol vessels are behaving splendidly, working as tugs, foil fighters and supplying steam for unloading damaged merchant vessels. Casualties in

/SALVIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Suda Bay bombed. A/A.defence.	SALVIA and WIDNES being reported. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 2101c/18 to C. in C.Med.)
Situation report No.30.	My 1321/15 WARSPITE flying flag of C.S.7. and VALIANT have sailed with destroyers to relieve Force A. Other fleet movements as in my 1152/18. C. in C. Med., is remaining at Alexandria for the present. 2.Crete no developments. My 0014/18 para. 2. THEMONI has sunk LOGICIAN machinery seriously damaged cannot steam. SALVIA damaged in further raid 18th. 3. My 1150/18 ABA was attacked at 1348/17 just South of Kaso Straits. R.A.D. came to her assistance with Force C. at 1730. Cruisers and ABA again attacked at 1846/17 by 8 JU. 87 of which two were shot down. COVENTRY slightly damaged by near miss. 4. Canal area A S.B.N.O.C.A.1943/17. Further raid night 17th/18th has stopped traffic in Northern section details not yet known. 5. Western Desert P.M./17th air recco reports 2000 ton ship sunk off Benghazi. No change general situation. 6. Alexandria, good progress with TIGER. (C. in C. Med. 2316/18.)

East Indies.

ILE DE FRANCE. AQUITANIA.	Cancel my 2058/17. ILE DE FRANCE and AQUITANIA are to be sailed in accordance with A.M. 1459/17. (C. in C. E.I., 0034Z/18, to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)
Italian Surrender.	Part 3. Ops. Summ. 342. Duke of Aosta surrendered to our troops at Amba Alagi with his forces. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1221/18.)

/Raider No.33.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

Raider No.33
PENQUIN
(Sunk 8/5.)

Further details of action. (C. in C.E.I. 1434Z/18.) See Lion Copy.

Iranian Trade.

Your 1126/9 and 0730/12. To reduce interference with Iranian trade to minimum it is suggested that (a) neutral (other than Japanese ships) be allowed to proceed at once, to ports in the Gulf and up river to Abandan to offload Iranian cargoes subject to an undertaking not to go on to Basra unless so permitted; (b) Japanese ships be similarly allowed to proceed to any ports outside Shat el Arab, being informed that they cannot at present be permitted to proceed upriver. (Head of M.1605B/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

Duke D'Aosta.

May be flown Nairobi but all political or other discussion beyond ordinary formalities should be avoided pending further instructions.
(W.O. 1700/18, to C. in C. M.E.)

Search for Raider.

My 2122/17. Consider D/F position is indefinite and is probably more to the Westward, Catalina, carried out a 100% search of area bounded by 09° 30' S.,06° 30' S., 72° 30' E., 77° 30' E., 18/5 without result. Will search area radius 100 miles from 11° S., 72° 30' 19/5. CORNWALL and GLASGOW are no longer in company. CORNWALL will search area enclosed in 10° S., 12° S., 67° 71° commencing about 04002/19.
GLASGOW will search Western area of Chagos Archipelego commencing P.M./20.
(C. in C.E.I., 1734/18, to A.C.N.B., N.O.I.C, Simonstown etc.)

CLAN BUCHANAN.

Your 1100/15. Policy is to inform owners of vessel in confidence as soon as news of loss is received. Owners then pass all necessary information to Agents abroad. Owners of Clan Line have been requested to hasten action in accordance with your 1100/15. (D.T.D. 1915B/18 to C. in C.E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

DUNELMIA "Q" Report, 17/5.

Your 2000B/17. No.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0157Z/18 to Admty).

Martinique Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dept., From Fort de France 17/5. U.S. Consul accompanied by U.S. Naval observer (?called) on High Commissioner today. He informed them that: (a) In accordance with instructions from his Government he intended to maintain status quo as regards French Fleet and French gold now in West Indies. (b) He had been informed French West Indies had not been involved in conversations between Darlan and Hitler. (N.A. Washington, 0421/18, to Admty).

QUITO
BOGOTA
RHAKOTIS.
(German).

Following from Navy Dept. Following German ships sailed from Chilean Ports 17/5. QUITO, BOGOTA, from Coquimbo, RHAKOTIS from Antofagasta. One ship, Name not available from Talcahuano.
(N.A. Washington, 0432/18, to Admty).

LADY SOMERS.

Leave Bermuda on completion of practice 18/5 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax. Instruction as to your future movements will be issued by F.O.C.N.P.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 08220/18, to LADY SOMERS.)

Crews Ex Enemy Ships.

Consul General San Jose (C.R.) reports 93 men ex German Italian ships sunk Punta Arenas to be put either (A) on Southbound Japanese ship at Punta Arenas with possible transhipment Balboa (B) on U.S. ship at same port for transhipment Balboa or San Francisco.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0928R/18 to Admty).

No Visits.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

No Visits to French Ports. No British or Allied shipping or boats of any description are to visit French ports in Antilles or French Guiana pending further instructions. Small British or Allied vessels engaged in local trading which may be on passage to French ports may however complete present voyage. Request Admiralty arrange for co-operation NEDSHIP and NOTRASHIP. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1001Q/18, to Canopy.)

German ships. "QUITO" and BOGOTA sailed from Coquimbo 1100Z/17. RHAKOTIS sailed from Antofogasta 2100Z/17. FRANKFURT sailed from Talcahuano 2055Z/17. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1008Q/18.)

ERLANGEN (German.) Sailed during night.
(N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1100/18, to S.O.I., Callao.)

Bermuda. Owing to shortage of coal and water at Bermuda request ships proceeding there may bunker and complete with water at intermediate ports before arrival.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1302Q/18, to C. in C.S.A.)

RHAKOTIS. (German.) My 1736/17. Antofagasta reports RHAKOTIS cleared for Talcahuano.
(S.O.I., Callao, 1553/18, to C. in C.A.W.I.)

EMILE BERTIN Martinique. Following obtained by CARADOC at Tortola (A.3) French cruiser EMILE BERTIN left Martinique suspected destination West Africa. 16 U.S. destroyers which bunkered St. Thomas 17/5 now patrolling of Martinque. 12 U.S. S/Ms expected augment patrol force immediately. Martinique and Guadaloupe blockaded by U.S.A. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1602Q/18, to Admty.)

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS. Your 2202/16, our information is BROOKLYN HEIGHTS arrived Basra 6/5/41.
(D.T.D. 1916B/18, to Consul-Gen., New York.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.5.1941.
Sunday.

U - BOAT CAMPAIGN.

BENGORE HEAD } Torpedoed 9/5 in Convoy O.B. 318.
ESMOND. } Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S., 621,18/5.)

SOMERSBY. Torpedoed 13/5, now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 621, 18/5.)

Ship's Attacked.

CITY OF SHANGHAI (torpedoed 10/5.) Torpedoed and sunk by gunfire by submarine in 6° 40' N., 27° 50' W., at 2200/10. British RICHMOND CASTLE Rescue Boat with master and 7 European and 10 Lascar survivors in 5°10' N., 25° 50' W 12/5 2? other boats reported in-vicinity. Wireless shattered by explosion, no distress signal sent out. RICHMOND CASTLE broadcast distress signal but failed to raise "any British Man of War" or Sierra Leone W/T Station. (DIOMEDE, 1117Z/18, to C. in C. A.W.I.) British, 5828 tons. Independently routed from Tyne to Capetown and Turkey. (D.S. 622.)

PIAKO. Following has been received: S S S S 7.03 N., 14.48 W., PIAKIO Torpedoed. (Freetown W/T, 2035/18.) (British, 8286 tons, Sailing independently from Albany to Freetown and Liverpool (D.S.622.)

RODNEY STAR (torpedoed 16/5.) Following intercepted by S.S. MARYLYN at 0600/16/5. (Begins) 05° 03' N., 19° 02' W., RODNEY STAR torpedoed (ends)

CITY OF SHANGHAI. (torpedoed 10/5.) Following intercepted by S.S. CITY OF EVANSVILLE at 2050/12 from S.S. RICHMOND CASTLE. (Begins) At 2000 G.M.T./12 position 5° 10' N., blank 45' W., picked up Captain and 17 crew Steamship CITY OF SHANGHAI torpedoed 2240 G.M.T./10 approx., 06° 40' N., 27° 50' W. Two other Lifeboats somewhere in vicinity (ends. Both messages handed in by Masters on arrival Freetown 18/5. Nothing heard at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2141N/18, to Admty.)

/EMPIRE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

	Ships Attacked Contd.
EMPIRE CARIBOU (torpedoed 10/5.)	British, 4861 tons. Now known to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0555/10 about 465 miles S.W. of Reykjanes during S/M attack on Convoy O.B. 318. Was bound from Loch Ewe to Boston. (D.S. 622.)
SANGRO. (torpedoed 6/5.)	GENTIAN and RHODODENDRON 054° N., 016° W., 056° 14 knots following route H.G.61. Have 4 Italian survivors from SANGRO on raft 5 days. (GENTIAN, 2400B/18 to C. in C. W.A.)
	Submarines Reported.
2319/17.	Own aircraft sighted U Boat at 2319/17, in 047° 40' N., 006° 50' W., on surface escorted by 2 surface craft. (F.O.(S) 1014B/18 to SOKOL, TIGRIS.)
U/B's Towing Kites.	One certain case and one probable case in which a U-Boat has been sighted towing a kite have recently been reported. Both cases occurred to the southward of Iceland. (D.A/S.W. 1118B/18 to "A" Home & Abroad.)
1250.	Aircraft Duty O. Am investigating suspicious object as indicated in position periscope position 60.13 N., 3.31 W. (A/C Duty O, 1250/18 to 18 R Group.) Periscope only sighted 165 true 3 miles. (A/C Duty O., 1300/18, to 18R Group.) My 0648/18. Patrol will now be by Whitley A/C from 1730 until 2130. Sunderland has been diverted to search for submarine reported in A/C O/201's 1250 and 1300 and will remain in that vicinity until 2300. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1424/18, to Orkneys, etc.) Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1341B/18) (F.O.S., 1516B/18.)
2035.	Admiralty message AF 07. 03 N., - 14.48 W., 2035Z. (C. in C. S.A., 1938N/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

By MALCOLM etc.,17/5.	My 2341 Z. MALCOLM fired 13 d.c.'s. HELIOTROPE fired (corrupt group)d.c. at 2130 in 062° 44' 011° 20'. Disregard consider this submarine area. Proceed meet O B 322. (S.O., Escort Group 12, 0036Z/18, to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

VISENDA reported an unknown merchant vessel at 0928 in 61° 42' N. 14° 40' W. steering 125°.

Northern Patrol.

C.S.1. in NORFOLK left Scapa this afternoon to reinforce SUFFOLK in Denmark Strait.

British Air Operations.

Aircraft of Bomber Command last night attacked the shipyards and other industrial targets at Kiel. A minor attack was made on Emden.

Swordfish of Coastal Command last night attacked the docks and Gare Maritime at Cherbourg.

Enemy Air Operations.

North Western Approaches.

Finnish S.S. JOSEFINA THORDEN and IMMO RAGNAR were bombed and set on fire this morning in 62° 0' N. 11° 5' W. The former had been intercepted at 0325 by NORTHERN CHIEF (A/P Trawler).

Convoy H.G. 61 reported being bombed at 0016 in 54° 56' N. 11° 49' W. No damage has been reported.

S.S. UMGENI shot down a F.W. aircraft at 0545 G.M.T. today in 55° 10' N. 17° 10'W. and rescued 5 survivors.

North Sea.

S.S. ESKBURN was attacked off Blyth last night and was damaged.

/A Dornier.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.(contd).

A Dornier attacked Lowestoft at 1209 and was shot down by the guns of the ships in harbour before causing any damage.

Convoy E.C. 22 was attacked this afternoon east of Felixstowe. No damage was caused.

At 2342 today an enemy aircraft was brought down off Cork L.V. (Thames Estuary) by H.M. Trawlers.

Channel and west.

BANGOR and M/S Trawlers were attacked this morning off Portland by 9 enemy aircraft. DARTHEMA and COMPUTATOR were slightly damaged. BANGOR and DARTHEMA claim to have damaged 2 enemy aircraft.

Greek S.S. DIMITRIOUS, INGLESSIS was bombed and slightly damaged at 0500 today in the Convoy Anchorage at Milford Haven.

Mining.

Operation P.M. 9.

M.T.B's last night carried out a mining operation.

Thames Estuary.

S.S. WINKFIELD in Convoy F.S. 92 was mined and sunk and DIXCOVE was damaged in the Thames Estuary this afternoon. At 0210 an aircraft dropped a mine which sank paddle vessel CITY OF ROCHESTER off Rochester. Traffic was stopped in a portion of the Medway from 0130 to 1030 on a report from a minewatcher, now thought to be unreliable. Three mines were detonated late tonight in the area where WINKFIELD and DIXCOVE were mined.

North Atlantic.

From D/F bearings a German 8 inch cruiser may be at large.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Minesweeping. C. in C. Med. today enters a strong protest against the Admiralty instructions (1457/17) regarding the assistance which he will have to send to C. in C. E.I. for minesweeping.

Operation "Splice". S.O. Force H in RENOWN with ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 3 destroyers left Gibraltar at 0332A for Operation "Splice" (aircraft reinforcement of Malta) FURIOUS, LONDON and 4 destroyers left for the operation at 1530A; LONDON is to part company p.m. today.

Cyrmaica. TRIUMPH on return to Alexandria from patrol reported boarding and sinking a 400 ton schooner off Marsa Brega. She also carried out a bombardment of Apollonia.

UNBEATEN probably sank a merchant vessel of 5000 tons at 1240 today in 38° 47' N. 14° 0' E.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

Crete. Suda Bay was dive bombed at 0800 and at 1915, but no damage was caused in either attack. There were continuous bombing and machine gun attacks on Maleme and Heraklion today; the remainder of the serviceable aircraft have been despatched to Egypt.

7 Wellingtons dropped 8 tons of bombs last night on the German occupied aerodromes of Hassani and Eleusis used by the enemy as bases for air attack on Crete.

M.T.B's 67 and 214, on patrol in Elaphonisos Channel last night are reported to have shot down one aircraft and probably a second.

GLENGYLE landed a battalion of troops with 14 days' supplies on the beach in Messara Bay (South coast) last night.

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Situation in Iraq etc. — C. in C. M.E. considers that the present grave situation in Arabic speaking countries is largely attributable to superiority of enemy propaganda and cognate activities and inefficiency of our own, this latter being due primarily to inter-departmental conflicts of interest hindering improvement "While we are fiddling, Rome is burning".

SNAPDRAGON left Simonstown today to reinforce C. in C. E.I.

America & West Indies.

From D/F bearings this evening an enemy unit may be north of 55° N. and west of 30° W.

SHEHERAZADE. — At 1321Q PRINCE DAVID, and if possible DIOMEDE were ordered to intercept French tanker SHEHERAZADE, reported at 1200Q in 28° 52' N. 65° 61''W. steering to the eastward. (The tanker escaped from New Orleans 16/5, 2 hours before U.S. guards were due to go on board).

BEARN
E. BERTIN. — It is reported that BEARN and EMILE BERTIN are preparing to sail from Martinique shortly at night.

German merchant ships. — It was reported today that RHAKOTIS (German, left Antofogasta 17/5) was sighted by 2 vessels at 2130 G.M.T/17 in 24° 50' S, 70° 50' W, steering 190° at 9 knots with all lights on.

It was reported at 1950 today that PUERTO MONT and ERLANGEN were sighted at 1100 G.M.T. /18 in 42° 37' S. 73° 9' W.

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

N.W. Approaches — Convoy H.G. was attacked by U boat at 0315B in 55° 0' N. 11° 14' W.

S.S. EMPIRE RIDGE in Convoy H.G. 61 was torpedoed and sunk early this morningabout 100 miles west of Bloody Foreland.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

4 Trawlers for service abroad.

Adty. 1257/13 and F.O.I.C. Belfast 1820/17. It will now be possible to give a fortnights warning before these trawlersare required. They should therefore resume their normal duties for the present subject to the above. (D. A/S W. 0119B/19).

4 Destroyers for S.A.

C. in C. Portsmouth 1317B/18. Concur that C. in C. Portsmouth should supply three and C. in C.W.A. one only destroyers in accordance with A.M. 2051B/17. (V.C.N.S 0957B/19).
Your 2051B/17. Owing to difficulty of providing a "V" or "W" class at short notice without disturbing organization of escort groups itis intended to allocate VIMY for this duty. Propose that HIGHLANDER should be lent to C. in C.S.A. until relieved by VIMY, probably be end of June. (C. in C. W.A. 1457B/19 to Admty).
Your 1457B/19. Approved.
(D.O.D.H. 2041B/19 to C. in C.W.A).

Anti-Invasion orders. Distribution.

In view of the most secret nature of the unified anti-invasion orders and with regard to economy of paper it is considered essential that the issue of part 1 and, as far as possible, appendices of other commands should be restricted to corvettes and above only. If this view is concurred in request all other commands may be instructed to limit their requirements of copies accordingly. (C. in C. Nore 1654B/19).

Movements.

NIGERIA. KENYA.

Scapa arrivals C.S. 10 in NIGERIA KENYA. (A.C.O.S. 0642/19).

NORFOLK.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 0805/19).

VICTORIOUS.

C. in C.W.A. 1946B/18 para 5. VICTORIOUS should R/V in position (a) at 0530B/23. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1206B/19).

Four U.S.A. Coastguard cutters.

It is anticipated that the four American Coastguard cutters will arrive Clyde about 23/5. (C. in C.W.A. 1357B/19).

/RODNEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd)

RODNEY. BRITANNIC. SOUTHERN PRINCE.	C. in C.W.A. 2341B/18. Request you will sail SOUTHERN PRINCE to R/V with BEDOUIN and IMPULSIVE in position (a) at 0500B/22. Intend sailing RODNEY, BRITANNIC, and escort at 1300B/22 to R/V with SOUTHERN PRINCE in position (x) at 1800B/25. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1626B/19). Admiralty's 2014B/13. My 1952B/17. Concur C. in C.H.F. 1734B/18. Route and R/V. (C. in C.W.A. 2341B/18).

Operations.

Denmark Strait Patrol.	Reinforce SUFFOLK after disembarking depth charges. (C. in C.H.F. 0928B/19 to C.S.1). F.O.C. 1st C.S. in NORFOLK sailed 1500. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2125/19).
DIANA intercepted.	Am boarding Spanish DIANA in 061° 42' 014° 40' dead reckoning. Not in Lloyds. (VISENDA, 0945/19 to S.O.N.T). My 0955/19. Escorting Kirkwall E.T.A. 1400/21. (VISENDA 1114/19 to S.O.N.T).
CONQUEROR.	Intend sailing CONQUEROR to Brixham at 0500/20, E.T.A. 1100/20. Thence to Falmouth at 1000/22, E.T.A. 1900/22, routed via Q.Z.S. 180. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1051/19).
Jan Mayen.	Your 1853/10. Request you will ascertain from Jan Mayen whether:- I. (a) Mobile (b) Static Bofors can be landed, installed and manned. II. What is maximum size and weight of gun or mounting which could be landed and installed with existing resources at Jan Mayen or Iceland. (D. of L.D. 1737B/19 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Enemy Convoy. — Own aircraft sighted 11 merchant ships at 0745 in 047° 15' N. 003° 10' W. course 167°. Blenheims are being sent to attack. (F.O.S. 1044B/19).

Patrols. — One Whitley A/C will carry out A/S patrol today in following area. To be on datum at 1400. (C. in C. Rosyth 1138/19).
R/D's of Narvik and Trondheim will be carried out today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1230/19)

PEGASUS. — Anticipate PEGASUS will be ready for next operation A.M./28th. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1534B/19).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy CAMEL. — 4 Aeroplanes bombing. 54° 56' N. 11° 49' W. (@ Convoy CAMEL 0016/19).

JOSEFINA. THORDEN bombed. — (Finnish Tanker, 6549 Tons) Intercepted in 061° 38' N. 012° 16' W. Am escorting and routeing as per I.N.P. (NORTHERN CHIEF 0325B/19).
JOSEFINA THORDEN hit and burning. Picking up survivors. Position 062° N. 011° 05'W. (NORTHERN CHIEF 0945B/19).
R/V with NORTHERN CHIEF at JOSEFINA THORDEN. Take on board survivors and endeavour to tow ship to Thorshaven. After turning over survivors NORTHERN CHIEF resume patrol. (S.O. T.N.P. 1038B/19 to NORTHERN SUN).
My 0945B/19. Picked up 17 survivors, some badly injured. Ship burning fiercely. Proceeding Thorshavn with survivors. (NORTHERN CHIEF 1059B/19);
NORTHERN SUN attempting to tow to Thorshavn. NORTHERN CHIEF proceeding to Thorshavn with survivors. Request rescue tug may assist. (A.C.O.S. 1621B/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

JOSEFINA, THORDEN bombed. (contd).	Your 1155/19. Still burning fiercely. Hope to take in tow later. 062° 04' N. 011° 10' W. (NORTHERN SUN 1630B/19 to C. in C.W.A). Request you will sail BRIGAND and MARAUDER to assist JOSEFINA THORDEN. NORTHERN SUN is attempting to tow to Thorshaven. A.C.O.S. is requested to instruct NORTHERN SUN to escort tugs to most convenient port. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1822B/19 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway). BRIGAND MARAUDER sailed to comply with your 1822B/19. FREEBOOTER at 2 hours notice. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 2019B/19). Took JOSEFINA THORDEN in tow by anchor but rope parted. Fire subsiding. Still unable to board but anticipate doing so at noon/20. 062° 08' N. 11° 7' W. (NORTHERN SUN 2330B/19)
ESKBURN	(British, 472 Tons) Now lying at T 2 buoy, reports having been attacked by A/C off Blyth last night. Near miss caused damage to engine room and put D.G. out of action. Ship in no danger of sinking. Tug is proceeding to her and will tow her into Tyne. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0729/19) My 0729/19. ESKBURN is now in Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1208/19).
Convoy.	Fighter aircraft are being sent to assist convoy proceeding from Dartmouth to Needles. (Plymouth W/T 0920/19).
JOFFRE ROSE (British 719 Tons) DIMITRIOS INGLESSIS (Greek, 5275 Tons) damaged. COEN (Dutch, 290 Tons) CLARA MONKS (British, 577 Tons) attacked.	Following attacks on shipping at Milford Haven have occurred. 1. At 0500/18 single Aircraft bombed and damaged Coaster JOFFRE ROSE previously beached in Dale Roads following bomb damage at sea, and then machine gunned Dutch Coaster COEN at anchor. No casualties. 2. At 0500/19 single aircraft bombed and machine gunned Greek DIMITRIOUS INGLESSIS in Convoy anchorage, causing damage on deck from near miss no casualties. Aircraft probably damaged by M.G. fire. 3. At 2230/18 Coast CLARA MONKS bombed and machine gunned by single aircraft off St. Davids, Head. Ship undamaged and engaged A/C. D.E.M.S. rating slightly wounded landed Fishguard. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1040B/19).

/STATESMAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

STATESMAN (Bombed 17/5).	HERPATICA arrived 1900. Landed 50 survivors from S.S. STATESMAN. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1100/19).
3 M/V's attacked on 18/5.	British M/S DRAKE reports that at 2030 G.M.T/18 in 51° 56' N. 5° 3' W. one Heinkel 111 gunned steamer with black funnel and yellow band and three masts. Two explosions heard and splash seen about two ships length astern of steamer. Plane gunned two other small steamers. Plane did not come within range of DRAKE's guns. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1145B/19).
Lowestoft attacked.	Lowestoft attacked at 1209 by Dörnier. A to D. nil. Enemy destroyed by guns of ships in harbour, and crashed in sea off Corton. One survivor rescued. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1321B/19).
Convoy USAGE.	1 Aeroplane bearing, 330° course 160° my position 52° 38' N. 2° 9'E. (VERDUN 1633/19). Convoy USAGE being attacked by enemy aircraft. (VERDUN 1633/19). My 1633. ME 110. 2 bombs no damage. (VERDUN 1646/19).
Convoy SHARP. DARTHEMA COMPUTATOR (M/S Trawlers) damaged.	SHARP attacked at1113B/19 in QZX 267 by 9 ME 109's. Three bombs dropped, aimed at BANGOR, DARTHEMA, and COMPUTATOR from 200 ft. low level attack. DARTHEMA and COMPUTATOR suffered slight damage by near miss. No casualties. BANGOR and DARTHEMA claim damaged 2 enemy aircraft. Both retired to Southward, making smoke and losing height. Air escort in area. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1800B/19).
Convoy E.C.21.	Fighters have been sent to assist YIELD. (Rosyth 2238/19).
BEBINGTON.	(British 732 Tons) Damaged in Air-Raid at Birkenhead on 15/5. (D.S. 622).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation P.W. 9.	Operation P.W.9 completed. No ships seen. (C. in C. Nore 0736B/19).
Operation B.S. 61.	Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 0500/22. Laying will begin at 1300. Return to Flamborough Head and thence to Humber. F.O. Tyne is being requested to arrange an exploratory sweep in vicinity of the above route to be carried out on Wednesday. (TEVIOT BANK 0936/19).
	Your 0954B/19. CATTISTOCK detailed. (D. 21. 1100/19 to C. in C. Nore).
Faroes-Shetland Passage.	Admiralty 1806B/18. Minelayers will not be ready till P.M./22. Confirm that only two destroyers will be available from 17th division. (R.A.M. 1001/19). Adty. 1806/18 amended by R.A. (M) 1001/19. Para. 2 concur. Para 3 one destroyer and cruiser as A/A escort available. (C. in C. H.F. 1246B/19). C. in C. H.F. 1246B/19 and R.A.(M)'s 1645/18 R.A. (M) is requested to forward detailed proposals for a two ship lay. It is particularly desired to place the Southern end of the line as far to the South as possible. (V.C.N.S. 1910B/19).
Proposed operation.	C. in C.H.F. 1250B/19. See Operations Volume.
River Medway CITY OF ROCHESTER (British, 194 Tons) sunk.	As result of a report from a mine watcher at Bulls Nose traffic was stopped in short and Gillingham reaches of River Medway at 0130/19. Traffic resumed at 1030 after sweeping. Report now considered unreliable. At 0210 a low flying aircraft, thought to be single-engined, dropped a mine on a lighter alongside paddle vessel CITY OF ROCHESTER lying near gasworks at Rochester. Paddle vessel sank at 0310. No casualties. (C. in C. Nore 1245B/19, A.S.Chatham 1305/19)

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Convoy F.S. 92. WINKFIELD sunk.

WINKFIELD (British, 5679 Tons) Mined and sunk near B.4 Buoy. (LEEDS 1515B/19). My 1515 and 1525. WINKFIELD sunk in position 300° 1 cable No. 12 Barrow Buoy. N.C.S. (LEEDS 1555B/19).

DIXCOVE damaged.

DIXCOVE (British, 3790 Tons) Damaged by mine 1542B/19. Slight damage port side below water line. Making water but own pumps keeping it under control. Tugs HIBERNIA and SUN X standing by pending towage to No. 10 Shed King George V Dock tomorrow. (N.C.S.O. Thames 2136B/19).

HILDA.

(Balloon barrage motor vessel) Mined at 1944/18 in position 140° Q2A buoy 1/2 cable. Vessel now docked. Hull strained and engine castings fractured. Mine detonated 20 ft. on beam when engines were given a kick astern while anchoring. Ship had anchored in same spot 14 nights in succession. Last suspected minelaying in this area night 3rd/4th May. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1522/19).

Chatham. Skid towing craft required.

A shallow draught skid towing vessel is urgently required in Chatham area, to deal with mining in the river Medway and other shallow water areas. A tug with a hinged funnel is desirable so that vessel can go under Rochester Bridge. Request such a vessel may be allocated. (C. in C. Nore 2237B/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats.

Further Admiralty Intelligence suggests E-Boats may be operating. (C. in C. Nore 0045B/19).

Unknown M/V.

1 unknown Merchant Vessel bearing 080°, 4 miles, course 125. My position 61° 42' N. 14° 40' W. (VISENDA 0928/19).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (contd).

Enemy M/V's.

The following enemy merchant ships are believed at sea, and may be arriving at French West Coast ports shortly:-
German. DRESDEN left Santos 28/3/41.
BABITONGA left Santos 25/4/41.
LECH left Rio de Janeiro 28/4/41.
Italian. FRISCO left Ceara 28/3/41.
FRANCO MARTELLI left Pernambuco 28/3/41.
(D.D.I.C. 1125B/19 to EDINBURGH).

Enemy T.Boats or Destroyers.

W/T Intelligence suggests that movements of T.Bs or destroyers south bound from Frisian Islands may take place tonight. (D.D.I.C. 1959B/19).

JUPITER. suspected sabotage.

Reference Capt. (D) Plymouth 1220/18. Suspected sabotage JUPITER. Security service would like to send representative to attend enquiry if held. (D.N.I. 2130B/19).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 125. — Capt. (D) 3 INTREPID and ESCAPADE are available to act as striking force with H.X. 125 while on passage to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1032B/19 to C. in C. W.A).

W.S. 9A. — Ready to leave U.K. (date) List (D.O.D.(H) 1235/19 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F) See Lion Copy.

H.G. 60. — Commodore, Vice-Adm. Mackworth, has arrived safely, 12 British, 1 neutral, 2 allied ships. Cargoes (D.S. 622).

T.C. 11. — My 1817/4. ANDES will be included in T.C.11 and not EMPRESS OF CANADA. Additional ships are now available as follows. (D.S.T., 1244B/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

W.S.8B. — My 2256B/10 para 2. Delete SAMARIA. (D.O.D.H., 1250B/19 to C. in C. W.A. etc).

A/A Training. — Following measures are being adopted at shipping ports in U.K. and Northern Ireland in order to train Officers and Men of the Merchant Navy in A.A. Gunnery. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1324B/19 to Secty. A.C.N.B. Secty. Wellington for information).

EXETER.
W.S.8B. — EXETER is to proceed, passing Hoxa boom at 0800/20 to Clyde. EXETER is detailed as ocean escort for W.S.8B. (C. in C. H.F. 1437/19 to N.O.I.C. Greenock). Para 1. of my 1437B/19 is cancelled. EXETER is to proceed to arrive Clyde in time for C.O. to attend Convoy Conference at 1500/22. (C. in C. H.F. 1905B/19 to EXETER).

/W.S.8X.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

W.S.8X. A small fast convoy to be known as W.S.8(X) and consisting of WAIWERA from Newport and PORT WYNDHAM from Mersey will be ready to leave U.K. about 27/5. Speed of slowest ship 15½ knots. Ocean escort will be provided by NEPTUNE from Home Fleet. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide A/S escort. WIVERN, VANSITTART and WILD SWAN from Portsmouth are available as part of the escort. These three ships should be ordered to break off and proceed to Gibraltar when fuel considerations so demand. (D.O.D.(H) 2236B/19 to C. in C.W.A., H.F., Portsmouth).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BARRHEAD (Grounded 29/12/40).	(Boom Defence Vessel) Salved and now at Reykjavik. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1604/19).
PACIFIC (British, 2816 Tons) BARON NEWLANDS (British, 3386 Tons)	In collision at 0640/16 at Oban. Both damaged. (D.O.R. 19/5).
COSSACK.	Delayed with density in feed water. (C. in C. Plymouth 2256/19).
Plymouth Command trawlers.	State of and inadequacy of Dockyard to deal with repairs. (C. in C. Plymouth 2357/19) See Lion copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LATONA — As Force H is leaving Gibraltar earlier than was anticipated you should adjust your course and speed so as to arrive Gibraltar as early as practicable. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0029B/19 to LATONA).

Operation "Splice". — Gibraltar departures S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, HESPERUS, HAVELOCK, HARVESTER for Operation "SPLICE". (S.O.I. Gib. 0332A/19 to Admty).
1530A, departures FURIOUS, LONDON, FAULKNOR FORESTER, FOXHOUND, FURY for Operation "SPLICE". My 0332A/19, HAVOCK HARVESTER will be detached by S.O. Force H. p.m./19 to R.V. with ARUNDEL CASTLE. (S.O.I. Gib., 1540A/19 to Admty. etc).
Add to my 1540A/19. LONDON parts company p.m./19 and returns to lease p.m./20. (S.O.I. Gib., 2014A/19).

LONDON. — Your 1813/18. NEA HELLAS is expected to arrive Gibraltar 23/5, is it intended that LONDON should escort both transports sailing about 24/5? (F.O.C.N.A., 1012/19 to Admty).
Your 1012/19. Owing to escort commitments delay is not acceptable. LONDON, two H Class destroyers and ARUNDEL CASTLE should be sailed on 22/5 to U.K. Further signal will be made in regard to NEA HELLAS. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2059B/19 toF.O.C.N.A).

O.G.61. — Gibraltar Section and BARON KELVIN arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 1034/19 to Admty.).

PANDORA. — Intend to sail U.K. p.m./22 (route).
PANDORA is available for short patrol Bay of Biscay if required. Request F.O. (S) issue onward foute and arrange bombing restriction. (F.O.C.N.A. 1134/19 to Admty.).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.5.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Air Report.	No flying owing to unserviceability of aircraft. (200 Group, 1700/19).
Enemy Unit ? 8-in Cruiser.	At 1712 G.M.T. German Naval Unit bearing 318° 1st Class from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1840A/19 to N.A. Station).
JACQUES ODETTE.	(The following is an extract from a Fairmiss telegram). Arrival 18/5 French Drifter JACQUES ODETTE. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1857/19 to D. of S.T). A German 8-inch Cruiser may be at large. (F.O.C.N.A. 2026/19 to N.A. Station). Your 1840B/19 Otherbearings place this unit N. of 55° N. and W. of 30° W. (D.D.I.C. 2312B/19 toF.O.C.N.A) (F.O.C.N.A. 2346A/19 to N.A. Stn).
H.G. 64. BIDEFORD.	Estimated 0300/28 BIDEFORD will bring back H.G. 64. Detailed orders will be issued by F.O.C.N.A. (C. inC.W.A. 2201B/19 to BIDEFORD). Request you will issue necessary orders for BIDEFORD to bring back H.G. 64. (C. in C.W.A. 2206B/19 to F.O.C.N.A).

South Atlantic.

CITY OF DURBAN.	Recall CITY OF DURBAN to Freetown. Further instructions follow. (1st Sea Lord 0056B/19 to C. in C.S.A). Return to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A. 2349N/18 to CITY OF DURBAN). Arrived 1515/19. (S.O.I. Freetown 1815N/19).
RABAUL.	Overdue shipping RABAUL due Capetown 14/5 not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1030B/19 to Admty).

/Unknown.....

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Unknown ship 16/5. It now appears possible that 3333 intercepted by Freetown from unknown ship at 0620/16 giving position 5° 02' N., 10° 02' W. was corrupt version of distress message from RODNEY STAR position 5° 03' N., 19° 02' W. reported by .S.S. MARYLYN in my 2141/18. Original report resulted in diversion of two destroyers and one flying boat to area but nothing was found.
(C. in C. S.A. 1345N/19 to Admty).

Routeing of ships. My 1359N/19 part two final. (Part 1 is possibly 1345/19). Three ships were sunk about lat. 7° N within 160 miles between 6th and 10th. Routes are being dispersed as far as possible but original route dispersion in this area is important. Accurate knowledge of time and date that ships will pass lat. 24° N (my 1608/15) is very important to enable diversion to be effective. Lack of knowledge of position on route sometimes 48 hours in error causes great difficulty. Request investigation of any means possible to make this estimate time of crossing 24° N more accurate.
(C. in C. S.A. 1359N/19 to Admty).

CORNWALL action with raider. 8/5. Following is summary of CORNWALL'S action with raider PENGUIN or No. 33 in 003° 30' N 57° 48' E on 8/5 and information obtained - Raider reported 60 miles astern by aircraft at 0219/8. All day chase ensued. Raider disguised herself as TAMERLANE. Ship sighted her at 1100. PENGUIN turned away at 17 miles carrying out normal merchant recognition procedure. Disguise of vessel not fully penetrated until range 12000 yards. She opened fire accurately after two warning shots from CORNWALL, blowing up with large explosion 10 minutes later. Information. 8,000 tons. Armament 5 5.9" guns, 3 4" guns, 3 torpedo tubes, mines. One aircraft. Ship left Germany in June, 1940, met one supply ship in Feb. 1941 and one on 1/4/14. to which she transferred prisoners. One prize probably OLE WEGGER sent home in February with 300/400 prisoners. Ship sank EMPIRE LIGHT 25/4 CLAN BUCHANAN 28/4. BRITISH EMPEROR 7/5. Ship not working on definite information, fitted with some form of R.D.F. Whale Catchers was alongside

5/5but no other.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

CORNWALL action with raider, 8/5. (contd).

5/5, but no other German ships co-operating. PENGUIN patrolled at slow speed with frequent stops: after a sinking she steamed at 13/14 knots for 24 hours then stopping to send up aircraft. Aircraft in frequent use.
(C.C.S.A. 1431N/19 to S.A. Squdn).

SNAPDRAGON.

Simonstown departure 1500/19 SNAPDRAGON for Durban Mombasa and Persian Gulf in accordance with Admty 1904/12. Speed 11.5 knots E.T.A. Durban 1400/22. Route to Mombasa in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1110/18/4.
(F.C.I.C. Simonstown, 1507Z/19 to Admty Etc).

PHILOMEL

Amdty 1737/18/2 Weather conditions permitting earliest date of departure PHILOMEL is 22/6 Constructional work on large magazine not yet completed.
(N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 1530Z/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

ALBATROSS

A.T. 1233/25/1. Request you will report the estimated dates when ALBATROSS will be away from Freetown for refit.
(D.O.D. (F) 1636B/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

Dakar

Report graded C.2 16/5. MONTCALM confirmed left. RICHELIEU Caissons removed divers still at work. Departures 12/5 convoy of 4 ships s small S/M3 and two destroyers, Vessels in port VILLE DE DUNKERQUE, FORT DE FRANCE, CHEF MECANICIEN, ARMAND BLANC, CAPITAINE LUFEICH, ALSINA and GARONNE. All between May 12th and 14th, report not graded states one gun weighing approximately 30 tons loaded at Marseilles and discharged at Dakar from Capt. Pmieu 2/5.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1911Z/19 to Admty).

Visit to Free French Port.

Visit of a British Warship to one of more of the Free French African ports would be of great value in encouraging local morale, which is suffering from the effects of isolation and the present developments in the political situation in France. Request you consider arranging such a visit as early as practicable.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1919Z/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

Guns in M.V.'s.....

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Guns in M.V.'s

Your 1125B/16. As all ships from U.K. are now normally fitted with four permanent machine guns, Military Light A/A personnel who are expressly required for ships operating within the Atlantic Ocean should not continue past the Cape. C. in C. E.I. has been asked whether a Shuttle Service of guns and crews is available at Aden and also to forward proposals for the defence of ships using the Shatt-el-Abrab. 12 pdr. guns should not be removed from vessels proceeding to the Persian Gulf.
(D.T.D. 2002B /19 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Spanish Gunboat to Visit Freetown.

My 2021/12/4 and Admty 2329/20/4. Am informed Spanish Gunboat CALVO SOTELO will arrive Freetown 25/5 do not know length of stay. Movements at this period NELSON and EAGLE arrived 23rd or 24/5. ANSON arrives 27/5 Convoy S.L.76 sails 27/5.
2031M/19.

RHAKOTIS ERLANGEN QUITO BOGOTA & FRANKFURT. (German).

All left west coast ports on 17/5. H.S.O.(I) Callao reports all have ample bunker.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2141Z/19 R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PANDORA
R. of P.

Reports spending 5 days off Capri nothing seen: 2 days West of Palmarola where one DOLZANO class cruiser sighted northbound 8th: one day between Licosa and Palinuro where 2southbound ships seen, one a tanker 3000 tons unsuccessfully attacked.
C.O., PANDORA suggests patrolling 8 miles 130 from Palinuro where traffic after hugging coast steers 130. In view of profitable patrol South of Sardinia suggest this as primary position. A patrol off Genoa however would provide opportunity during passage from Gibraltar.
(Capt. S.8. 0043/19, 0045/19 to Capt. S.1.)

ABA

H.M. Hospital Ship ABA arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa, 0800C/19 to C. in C. Med).
Damaged, see 1659/19.

Suda Bay
Bombed.

No change in situation. Suda Bay dive bombed 0800/19. No damage.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0901/19 to C. in C. Med).

Benghazi
bombed.

Operational Summary No. 343 up to 1200 hours 19/5/41.
Night 17/18, May, eight Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour and large concentrations enemy aircraft reported on Derna Aerodrome. Two Blenheims followed up attack at dawn/18 their bombs bursting near hangars. One failed to return.

Rhodes
bombed.

One Wellington bombed Calato Aerodrome (Rhodes) on night 17/18 May starting seven small fires in S.E. corner.

Suda Bay
bombed.

Seventeen Ju.87s escorted by ten Me. 109s dive bombed Suda Bay during morning/17 while five Me. 109s patrolled over Maleme. A.A. fire destroyed one Do.17 reconnoitring anchorage during raid. Two British ships destroyed by fire. Four enemy reconnaissances of Suda Bay during morning 18 were followed by several heavy bombing and machine gun attacks on Suda Bay, Maleme, Heraklion and Canea Area in afternoon. A.A. fire destroyed unidentified aircraft. One ship sunk and Heraklion Aerodrome rendered temporarily unserviceable.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1038/19).

3 ships
destroyed.

UNDAUNTED.....

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

UNDAUNTED — Recommended date for paying off UNDAUNTED 13/5.
(C. in C. Med., 10580/20 to Admty).

LATONA — Consider that LATONA should proceed by Cape of Good Hope. C. in C. M.E. agrees.
(C. in C. Med., 1059/19 to Admty).

UNBEATEN. — Leave patrol p.m./20 through 33° 20' 14° 13' and 35° 30' 14° 13' to arrive off Marsamxett about 0600B/22..
(Capt, S.1., 1103B/19. to UNBEATEN).

Ammunition. — Your 2340/28/4. T.L. are glad to know that a good proportion of your reserve is now afloat. Remarks.
(D.T.S.D. 1117B/19 to C. in C. Med).
Ref. a.m. 1704/29/1/40. Revised new delivery forecast.
(D.T.S.D. 1118B/19 to C. in C. Med).

ABDIEL
Operation
"Mat"1. — My 1355/17. Sail 1500/19 and proceed through 033° 50' N 024° 00' E to reach 035° 30' N 021° 10' E negative at 2000/20. Circumstances permitting force A (1) should join ABDIEL p.m./20 and afford her support during daylight ABDIEL to proceed at 2100/20 to carry out operation MAT 1/ retiring on completion to south westward, proceeding at daylight/21 then to join force A(1). ABDIEL to part company with force A (1) p.m./21 and return to Alexandria is to be reported.
(C. in C. Med., 11210/19 to ABDIEL).
My 1355/17 M.A.T.1. If laying of line B in position given is found to be impracticable the laying of line B from position 0900° Cape (Duktone?) one mile in a direction 210° for two miles should be considered. S.P.'s etc. except those detailed in A.F.O.'s 66/41 are to be landed.
(C. in C. Med., 12410/19 to ABDIEL).

Italian Convoy. — Report Small Italian convoy will leave Naples evening/19 bound for Gulf of Patras probably with a mean speed of advance 10 knots. Request you will endeavour to locate by R/C and if located sail 5 D.F. to intercept during night of 20 /21 returning to Maltaon completion.
(C. in C. Med., 11230/19 to V.A. Malta.)

/Small...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Italian Convoy. (contd).

Small convoy reported to leave Naples 19/5 bound for Gulf of Patras. Destroyers from Malta may attempt to intercept.
(Cdr. S.1. 1510B /19 to UPHOLDER).
To carry out your 11230/19 one Blenheim R/C will leave Malta 0600 and sweep some 80 miles route Messina - Naples returning westabout Sicily. If convoy is seen a 2nd R/C of 5 Armed Blenheims will search E and N E. Spartevento Cape to give a possible p. and c.of Convoy to destroyers and also attack. In second case this will mean Capt. (D) 5 leaving Malta at latest 1000. If convoy takes direct route Cape Spartevento - Patras it might be possible for Capt. (D) 5 to intercept between midnight and dawn but should convoy take any other route to northward and change course after R/C I consider with no moon the problem of interception has little or no chance. G. Mines in grand harbour still intact. All times Malta.
(V.A. Malta, 1945/19 to C. in C. Med).

M.T.B. Patrol in Elaphonisos Channel.

My 1703/18. No surface ship sighted. At 0100/19 fixed white all round light exhibited for about half an hour on Cape (?ST) (?ELIA). About 0300 when just east of Kithera white unreadable flashing light obscured probably from enemy aircraft. M.T.B. 67 and 214 credited with bringing down one aircraft certain and one probable.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1217/19 to C. in C. Med).
One M.T.B. will be patrolling Elaphonisos Channel during night 19/20.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1913/19).

VOLO

As soon as VOLO or other merchant ships are unloaded they should sail for Alexandria under cover of darkness. Route should be signalled to Mediterranean Fleet. Endeavour will then be made to detach a destroyer to escort.
(C. in C. Med., 12300/19 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).
S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1700/19 (M.T. in W.D.) C.S.7 is requested to detach one destroyer to escort VOLO joining her a.m./20 N.O.I.C. Alexandria is requested to sail GRIMSBY and FLAMINGO at 0600/20 to relieve escorting destroyer who is then to rejoin 7 C.S.
(C. in C. Med., 22350/19 to C.S.7 etc).

Requistioning....

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Requisitioning Craft, Crete.	Cdr. Matheos Royal Greek Navy now in Crete to select craft urgently required. Request he be given every assistance to select craft to be taken up on T.98, terms. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1221C/19 to S.T.O. Suda Bay).
Petrol for Malta.	Your 1822/16 and D. of S.T.'s 1703/14. There is not likely to be an opportunity of running in a white tanker to Malta at present. Cased kerosene and Benzine will be (?sent in) BRECONSHIRE as opportunity offers and possibly bulk of kerosene in submarine. V.A. Malta pass to Governor Malta. (C. in C. Med., 1243C/19 to V.A. Malta).
Use of Syrian Aerodromes.	Reply to Admty 1457/17. Seriousness of scale of attack by German air force. (C. in C. Med., 1329C/19 to Admty). See Mediterranean Volume.
Greek S/Ms & T.B.'s	My 1329/15. Greek submarines have now been out exercising several times and Greek torpedo boats and destroyer are working satisfactorily. I now intend further step forward and using the submarines for patrol in safer areas. For this purpose Liaison officers and wireless ratings together with the necessary cyphers will be embarked N/T My 1203/19 refers. (C. in C. Med., 1337C/19 to Admty).
Alexandria, Air Defence.	Re Co-operation between fighter aircraft and A.A. guns. (R.A. Alexandria, 1553C/19 to Med., Fleet).
No Malta Raid.	Report Malta up to 1600 hours 19.5.41. Enemy air activity Nil. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/19).

A/C's in .....

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

a/c's in Operatinns "Splice" & "Rocket".

Reference Air Ministry's 1835B 16 Part One Fulmars being flown to Malta in SPLICE and ROCKET may not be able to rely on landing at aerodrome in Crete for their outward passage. If not it may be necessary to carry out a special operation to fly them direct to FORMIDABLE. Presume full crew will accompany them who will be (?group Missing) of doing this. Crew could return to U.K. via Takoradi.
(C. in C. Med., 1619C/19 to Admty).

Italian Ships.

Following passed Istanbul 2140/18/4 (?18/5) for Aegean GIU SEPPE MAZZINI GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI, CATERINA MADRE. Local authorities informed.
(S.O.(I) Med., 1637C/19 to Admty).

ABA bombed,damage.

Hospital ship ABA arrived 0830/19. Sustained damage (summarized). Caused by air attack. Repairs in hand, date of completion to be signalled later.
(S.T.O. Haifa, 1659/19 to D.S.T.)

ex-Greek Martlet a/c.

It has been decided by the Chiefs of Staff that the Navy is to have first call on the 30 ex Greek Martlets. You are requested to consider re-equipping 805 Squadron with these aircraft and putting the Fulmars surrendered into reserve.
(5th S.L. 1711B/19 to C. in C. Med).

EMPIRE SONG (Mined 9/5).

Re type of mine encountered by EMPIRE SONG.
(D.M.S. 1750B/19 to V.A. Malta).

S.S. TURKIA (Greek).

Burnt out and sunk 2½ miles 160° from Zafarana. Lighthouse. Foremast showing above water.
(ii) Fire started at 0400/17 ship sank, 0700.
(iii) General cargo embarked at New York. Other ports of call West Africa, St. Lucia Pernambuco, Bosphorus, Durban.
(iv) Master had no suspicion of anyone on board C. in C. M.I. 1858Z/18 refers.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 1755C/19).

Movements.....

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Movements. SOUTHERN SEA and TIBERIO left at 1900/20 and SOUTHERN MAID and ZINGARELLA leave 1800/21 for Mersa Tobruk S.O.A. 6 knots. U boat was reported 1500C/19 22 miles North of Ram Melh.
(Capt S.1. 1917C/19 to TETRARCH, CACHALOT).

Mines. Your 0908C/16. 1,000 Flooders were shipped in following vessels, 250 in each:- BELLEROPHON, HANNINGTON COURT , STANMORE and NEW ZEALAND STAR. 2000 electric fuzes for Flooders were shipped in NEW ZEALAND STAR.
(D.D.O.D. (M) 1920B/19 to C. in C. Med).

GLENGYLE GLENGYLE ? COVENTRY AUCKLAND VOYAGER WATERHEN expect to arrive 0715C/20. My p.c. & s. are at 2000C/19 032° 52' N 026° 52' E Course 125° 15 knots. COVENTRY requires temporary berth alongside to facilitate disembarkation of wounded,
(GLENGYLE, 2001C/19 to R.A. Alexandria).

Crete, Situation. No change.
(C. in C. Med., 2003C/19 to C.S.7., C.S.15., B.S.1., R.A.D.M.)

Suez Canal Situation. Situation report. Mine at 40.5 found by diver and destroyed. Mine at Kilometres 55.1 exploded by HOPPER 42. Further search reveals that aeroplane shot down near Port Said dropped about 180 small bombs in desert of which about 80 are unexploded.
(S.B.N.O. Suez, 2003C/19).

Suda Bay Raid. Suda Bay dive bombed at 1915/19. About 25 planes. No damage. General situation unchanged
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 2101/19 to C. in C. Med).

REGENT passage of Narrows. Your 1201B/19. REGENT reports no trouble during passage of Narrows, she proceeded both at periscope depth and deeper when off Cape Bon.
(Capt S.8. 2110A/19 to Cdr. S.1).

Efficiency of Fleet and F.A.A. Whist the work of the fighters has at all times been admirable, it appears that the efficiency of the gunfire of the Fleet has made rapid strides lately.
(1st Lord, 2213B/19 to C. in C. Med).

MOST SECRET.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

BRITISH EMPEROR.	Overdue ship, BRITISH EMPEROR left Durban 24/4 for Abadan. C. in C. E.I.'s o230/9 refers. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0512Z/19, to Admty etc.)
HAWKINS.	To leave Durban A.M./22 to comply with C. in C. S.A's 2119/17. (C. in C. E.I., 0822Z/19, to HAWKINS.)
Colombo.	Your 1956/21/3. I again urge the appointment of a representative here with executive powers in Ministry of War Transport affairs. (C. in C. E.I., 0838Z/19, to D. of S.T.)
PANAGHIOTIS.	Crew refuse to sail on grounds of articles expiring and wish to be repatriated. Ship ready for sea and bound for Durban. Pressure(? previous)could be brought on crew to sail but master fears mutiny at sea resulting in ship being taken to Madagascar by crew. Intend to consult CERES on arrival. (N.O. i/c Kilindini 0850Z/19. to C. in C. E.I.)
Basra Trade.	Until further orders no commercial cargoes for Baghdad, Turkey, or Syria can be accepted at Basra owing to congestion and risk at port. N.O.i/c inform shipping agent concerned confidentially and pass to Reporting Officer. (C. in C. E.I., 1258Z/19, to N.O.I.C's) East Indies, 1300Z/19 to S.B.N.O. Suez etc.)
Raider Search.	My 1734/18. Area searched by Catalina 19/5 was enclosed by 10° 12° 30' 70° 40' 73° 20'. She also searched West Chagos Bank Islands as far North as 06° 10' S Catalina unserviceable 20/5 and returning Ceylon 21/5. If no further intelligence received CORNWALL will leave area dawn 20/5 and proceed Durban via. Mauritius arriving Durban P.M. 26/5. GLASGOW will complete her search and then proceed Colombo to arrive 23/5. (C. in C. E.I., 1330Z/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Enemy Shipping. — A.2 report, Japanese nationality is to be given to all German and Italian ships refuging in Japan. Japanese Ministry of Marine disclaim any knowledge of this report. 5 Germans and 5 Italians already Reported as under Japanese flag and presumed employed on Coastal trade. In addition there are 11 Germans and 4 Italians in Japanese harbours. (D.S., 622.)

America & West Indies.

RHAKOTIS. (German) — Sighted by 2 vessels in 24° 50' S., 70° 50' W. 2130 G.M.T./17 steering 190° making 9 knots all lights on. See my 1553/18. (S.O.I. Callao, 1023/19, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

FRANKFURT
RHAKOTIS
QUITO
BOGOTA.
ERLANGEN
(German.) — My 1009 Q/18 not to Admiralty. Following estimate of fuel in German Ships. FRANKFURT coal for 70 days plus 920 tons of wood. RHAKOTIS Diesel oil 450 tons. QUITO and BOGOTA full bunkers. ERLANGEN left Puerto Mont during nights May 17/19 with fuel for 70 days. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1139Q/19, to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

/Italian.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Italian Fleet Strength.

Following from Navy Dept., From U.S. Naval Attache, Rome. Estimated state of Italian Fleet as (? on) 16/5:-

	Original Strength.	Numbers sunk.	Numbers Damaged or not in Service.	Remaining Total.
Battleships.	6	1	3	2
Heavy Cruisers	7	4	0	3
Old Armoured Cruisers.	1	1	0	0
Light Cruisers.	14	3	3	8
Monitors.	5	0	0	5
Destroyers.	128	27	1	100
Submarines.	117	42	0	75

(N.A.Washington,1145/19.)

VAN KINSBERGEN
CARADOC.

My 1002Q/18 VAN KINSBERGEN leaves Bermuda a.m./21 to relieve CARADOC on patrol. CARADOC and VAN KINSBERGEN R.V. at Saint Johns Antigua at 0800Q/24. After turning over patrol CARADOC proceeds to Trinidad to refuel and provision. CARADOC will probably leave Trinidad 27/5 to resume patrol with VAN KINSBERGEN under his orders. (SAN ADOLFO) will leave Bermuda about 30/5 to act under CARADOC's orders.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1151Q/19, to CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN.)

DUNELMIA
"Q" Report.

Your 0157Z/18. Request you will endeavour to get in touch with DUNELMIA by W/T.
(D.D.I.C. 1248B/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
See 1519/20.

/French.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.5.41.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

French Tanker. — French Tanker reported 028° 52' N., 065° 61' W., at 1200Q/18 steering to Eastward. Assume her course 085°. PRINCE DAVID proceed at best possible speed along her track. DIOMEDE steer to intercept if fuel and circumstances permit. Estimate speed of Tanker 13 knots. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1321Q/19, to PRINCE DAVID, DIOMEDE.)

BEARN EMILE BERTIN. — Ships Control Officer, New York, informs me that he has heard from more than one source that BEARN and EMILE BERTIN are preparing to sail shortly at night. He has received further confirmation of above today. (N.A. Washington, 1445/19, to C. in C.A.W.I.)

Sydney N.S., Oil Supply. — Your 1917B/14. Re oil fuel supply at Sydney N.S. It seems desirable that on frequent occasions merchant ships in Sydney should be topped up with oil before proceeding to U.K. in convoy. Remarks. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1626Z/19, to Admty.)

Coal Bunkers, M.V.'s. — In view of small size of BDA Coal stocks and labour difficulties it is necessary for coal burning ships destined for Homeward Convoy from East Coast South America or [illegible] Caribbean Port [illegible] Halifax for Convoy instead [illegible]. In case of (b) more cargo can be carried but voyage is longer than in (a). Request information as to which is preferable. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1712Q/19, to Admty.)

ERLANGEN (German.) — Puerto Monti ERLANGEN sighted at 1100 G.M.T. 18/3 (? 18/5.)?May position 42° 37' S., 73° 9' W. (S.O.I., Callao, 1950/19, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA.

Your 1309 B/17. Present intention is to attach AUSTRALIA to flag of C. in C. E.I., when CANBERRA is withdrawn for refit except as necessary escort of U.S. Convoys.
(A.C.N.B., 0744Z/19, to Admty.)
Your 0744/19. Thank you. (1st. Sea Lord 1856B/20.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ALFRED OLSEN. (shelled 10/5.) — Norwegian tanker, 8817 tons, independently routed Freetown to Aruba, shelled by U/B after being missed by a torpedo about 550 miles S.W. and W. of Freetown, and when last seen was burning furiously. 3 survivors reached Freetown 16/5, but all the crew are reported to have left the ship. (D.S. 623, 20/5.)

H.G. Convoy. — VANQUISHER reports H.G. Convoy attacked by U Boat in position 055° 00' N., 011 14' W., at 0315B/19th. (C. in C. W.A., 0705B/19, to GENTIAN.)

EMPIRE RIDGE. — British, 2922 tons, from Melillo to Workington with a cargo of iron ore in Convoy H.G.61, was torpedoed about 90 miles W., of Bloody Foreland at 0630/19. No further details yet known.(D.S.623,20/5.)

SALOPIAN (torpedoed 13/5.) — Arrived Clyde IMPULSIVE with survivors of SALOPIAN. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1557B/19, to Admty.)

S/M's Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1351B/19, and 1352B/19 to N.A. Washington.)

1126. — By D/F at 1126 G.M.T. Italian U/B in 51° 30'N., 23° 30' W. Unreliable fix. May be reporting S.L.73.
(D.D.I.C. 1417B/19, to ESPERANCE BAY.)

0530. — Grade B.1. Portuguese steamship COLONIAL on passage Lisbon to Madeira reports unidentified submarine surfaced and encircled vessel at 0530/19 in approx., 34° 12' N., 14° 50' W., and then proceeded on surface in Northerly Direction.
(Consul, Madeira, 1735/19, to Admty.)
Description of S/m (Consul Funchal 2308/19.
Submarine reported in 034°12'N. 014° 50'W. at 0530/19 proceeding on surface in Northerly direction.(F.O.C.N.A. 2157/19, to N.A. Stn.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

1640. By Sunderland A/C, 45.58 N., 4.34 W.,150' W. of Gironde, Italian U/B on surface attacked with D/C's and G/F. No result. (D.S., 623, 20/5.)
Have attacked enemy with d.c. in 45.58 N., 5.15 W.
(Bomber Command Duty J. 1657/19 to 19 Group H.Q.)
Aircraft reports attacking enemy submarine with d.c.s in 45° 58' N., 05° 15' W., at 1657/19.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1804/19, to F.O.S.)
(F.O.S. 18198/19 to TIGRIS.)
My 1804, aircraft reports, enemy submarine was on surface, nothing further seen.
U boats course 225°, am returning to base E.T.A. arrival 2020. T.O.O. 1715.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1828/19, to F.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

It was reported this evening that 11 German merchant vessels, and later, two large warships escorted by 3 destroyers, 5 escort vessels and 10 or 12 aircraft passed through the Kattegat northward today.

British Air Operations.

All Operations by Bomber Command last night and today were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather.

Mining.

Mines were reported dropped in the Thames Estuary at 0057. Four more mines were detonated in the Sheerness area early this morning in the area where WINKFIELD and DIXCOVE were mined yesterday.

The Clyde was opened without restriction this evening.

Mediterranean.

Malta. Malta was attacked at 0200. The main water supply was damaged but there were no Services damage or casualties. At 1000 Luqa Aerodrome was attacked and damage was caused, and at 1530 12 aircraft bombed Takali Aerodrome slightly damaging one Hurricane.

Tripoli convoy attacked. URGE today attacked a southbound convoy west of Lampedusa and sank a 7000 ton tanker and a 9000 ton troopship. UPHOLDER at 1844 in 37° 58' N. 15° 40' E. attacked an eastbound escorted convoy of 2 tankers and one merchant vessel, and estimates one hit on a 4000 ton laden tanker.

/Libya.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.5.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT (Provisional)

Mediterranean

Air borne attack on Suda Bay Area.

At 0820 a heavy air attack developed on Malene, Canea and Suda Bay area, a very large number of enemy aircraft being employed.

At 0900C S.B.N.O. Suda Bay reported that about 1500 Air borne troops wearing New Zealand battle dress had been landed south and south west of Canea.

F.O. 7th C.S. with his flag in WARSPITE, who left Alexandria p.m./18 with VALIANT, ORION, AJAX and 8 destroyers, was ordered with F.O. 15th C.S. and R.A. (D) Meditn. to move up towards Crete.

At 1200 the situation was reported to be in hand. The capture of Malene is reported to have been the apparent object of the enemy; this failed, thus upsetting their plans. The method of attack was by Stukas, Messerschmidts, gliders and parachutes. The troop carriers which attempted to land are reported mostly to have crashed.

Commencing at 1630 further
~~Later reports give the number of~~ air borne troops landed in the Suda Bay- Canea area, ~~as~~ number about 3000. Of these, 1200 were unaccounted for at 1830.

Attack on Candia Area.

At 1500C it was reported that Heraklion and Retimo area were being bombed, and at 1804 that parachute troops had landed west of Candia and on Heraklion Aerodrome. Parachute troops are also reported to have landed at Retimo. These troops were reported to be wearing English battle dress.

/seaborne....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.5.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT (Provisional)

Mediterrancan-Contd.

Seaborne Attack on Candia Area.

At 2108 the enemy were reported to be patrolling off the beach west of Candia, with small boats carrying troops waiting to land. Our naval forces were moving in to the north of Crete from both east and west, to deal with seaborne attack, but lack of air reconnaissanc greatly hampered naval assistance.

At 1844C R.A.(D) Meditn. was ordered to establish a patrol to cover Malene Canea area, and if possible Kissamo Bay.

C.S. 15 (NAIAD, DIDO) is to establish a patrol to cover Heraklion and neighbouring coast.

CALCUTTA is to be off Candia at 0700/21.

Retimo is to be covered by M.T.B's and local craft from Suda Bay.

Force B. (GLOUCESTER and FIJI) to join Force A. (presumably 7th C.S's Force)

Force E. (NIZAM, ILEX, DEFENDER) Leaves Alexandria at 1400/20 to bombard Scarpanto at 0400/21.

At 0200/21 it was reported that four ships were landing troops in a bay west of Candia.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Libya. Between 13/5 and 20/5 UNBEATEN harassed coastal shipping in the Khoms area under very difficult circumstances. A large schooner is believed sunk and a smaller one was shelled and hit in Khoms anchorage.

Suez Canal. The northern section of the Canal is still closed.

Crete. HOTSPUR reported being attacked by enemy aircraft at 0715 in 34° 42' N. 23° 20' E.

WIDNES and KOS 22 were both damaged by air attack at Suda Bay today and were beached.

An "A" lighter landed 3 Y tanks and stores at Messara Bay last night.

Operations MAT. ABDIEL is to carry out a minelaying operation tonight, west of Crete.

East Indies.

Minesweepers BATHURST and LISMORE from the China Station have been ordered to proceed to Aden as soon as possible.

CAPETOWN arrived at Bombay today in tow of TAIKOO.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Dutch Naval vessels are to endeavour to intercept French Ships bound for unoccupied French Madagascar and Reunion.

America & West Indies.

At 0559/20 it was reported that Commodore OB 322 had reported at 1050G.M.T./19 that he had heard a merchant ship raider report made by S.S. CONTRACTOR in 48° 25' N. 46° 50' W.

Owing to U-boats operating as far westward as 40° or 41° W. a base on the western side of the Atlantic is to be used for escorting destroyers and corvettes.

3 of the U.S. Coastguard Cutters for U.K. sailed from Halifax today with CALIFORNIA.

U-Boat Campaign.

Attack on H.X. 126. 9 ships torpedoed (See also 21/5).

Convoy HX 126 was attacked and scattered today and 8 ships are reported to have been torpedoed viz:-
NORMAN MONARCH at 0250G.M.T. in 56° 47'N 40° 55' W. (sunk).
HARPAGUS at 0250G.M.T. in 56° 47' N. 40° 55' W. (sunk).
DARLINGTON COURT at 1300 in 57° 28' N. 41° 7' W.
BRITISH SECURITY at 1300 in 57° 28' N. 41° 7' W.
ROTHERMERE at 1548 in 57° 53' N. 41° 39' W.
JOHN P. PEDERSEN, (Norw. Tanker on Govt. Service) at 1620 G.M.T. (no position given).
GLENBEG at 1645 G.M. T. in 57° 57' N, 41° 58' W. (At 1644/20 AURANIA reported 8 ships of H.X. 126 already sunk).

/SAN....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign. (contd).

SAN FELIX torpedoed.	SAN FELIX (Tanker.) which had dispersed from O.B. 322 earlier in the day was torpedoed at 1453 G.M.T. in 57° 32' N. 40° 29' W, but reached St. Johns N.F. safely on 21/5 badly holed.
Attack on S.L. 73.	S.S. STARCROSS was reported torpedoed at 0438 in 51° 48' N. 20° 48' W. and sank later. Additional escort has been sent to the convoy.
JAVANESE PRINCE sunk.	S.S. JAVANESE PRINCE, independently routed is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk today about 155 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis.
Convoy O.B. 318 (attacked 9/5 and 10/5)	It is now reported that a sixth ship EMPIRE CARIBOU was torpedoed (at 0555/10) in the attack on Convoy O.B. 318 on 9/5 and 10/5 west of Iceland. A seventh ship, S.S. GAND was torpedoed at 2045Z/10 after dispersal of the convoy, in 57° 54'N, 37° 34' W. and was later sunk by gunfire. The U-boat is reported to have been fitted with a wake-less periscope.

MOST SECRET.

r Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BLACK SWAN STORK.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1131/18; BLACK SWAN and STORK are urgently required in Western Approaches. Request you will report when they will have completed working up. (C. in C. W.A. 1227B/20 to R.A.D.H.F).

Iceland Position for H.D.A. station.

Adty. 1432 A.2. Propose station be sited in 064° 19' 40" N. 021° 51' 02" W. Request minimum depth in which H.D.A's can be laid. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1653/20).

Movements.

CONWAY.

Arrangements have now been made for CONWAY to be towed to Menai Straits leaving Liverpool p.m. tomorrow. P.C. 74 will be required to escort. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail P.C. 74 and arrange R/V. (C. in C.W.A. 1314B/20).

Three U.S.A. Destroyers.

Three United States destroyers arriving from Halifax. E.T.A. 2200Z/21. Suggest that if possible you arrive a little before that time. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1336/20 to A.C.O.S).

SURCOUF.
JENNET.

Following are approx. estimated p.c. and s. of SURCOUF and JENNET at 1200 G.M.T./21. JENNET is S.O. of convoy of six boom defence vessels. (A.C.N.S. F. 2131B/20 to SURCOUF).

MOST SECRET

20.5.1941.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

CONQUEROR	My 1051/19. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0742/20).
Clyde-Iceland Ferry.	LANCASTER and WELLS detailed for D.S. 4. (R.A.M. 1006/20)
East Coast Patrol	Departures M.G.B's 65, 60 and 62. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2147B/20)
JUSSI H (Finnish, 2323 Tons) Intercepted.	Have intercepted JUSSI H in 062° 18' N., 13° 28' W. on course 075°. Too rough to board. Ordered her to steer 096° for Skopen Fiord. Am keeping her in sight. (NORTHERN SKY 2153B/20)

British Air Activity

Patrols	Air patrols today. S.9 at 0430 HORNLI at 1400 (C. in C. Rosyth 0140/20) 3 Whitleys 30 miles apart will fly A/S sweep along track of O.B. 323 to a depth of 300 miles leaving vicinity of Cape Wrath 1600/20. (C. in C. Rosyth 1240/20) Cancel my 1240/20. Aircraft returned owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth Recd. ? 1900/20) 3 Whitleys will (? search) following area, commencing 0400/21. (C. in C. Rosyth 2126/20)
Fighter Protection Conference.	Agenda fighter protection conference. Proposals. (A.C.O.S. 1840/20)
Bombing Restrictions.	OPS 546 20/5. Cancel our OPS 544 20/5. Institute T.S.B.R. as follows from 1800/20 until 0800/23. Institute submerged B.R. as follows from 0600/22 until 0800/25 and as follows, from 0600/24 until 1000/27 (H.Q.C.C. 2206/20)

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

JOSEFINA THORDEN. (Bombed 19/5).	NORTHERN CHIEF arrived 2330. Survivors landed. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0011/20). N.O.I.C. Stornoway's 1822B/19th and S.O.N.T's 2126B/19. Continue with tow through Skopen Fjord. If weather and condition of JOSEFINA THORDEN permit continue to Kirkwall instead of Thorshaven. Report E.T.A. Skopen Fjord and ultimate destination as soon as practicable. (A.C.O.S. 1608B/20 to NORTHERN CHIEF). Handed JOSEFINA THORDEN over to BRIGAND, MARAUDER, NORTHERN CHIEF 062° 05' 009° 40'. (NORTHERN SUN 2000B/20).
HOTSPUR.	Air Attack. Position 34 42 23 20, Course 154°, Speed 10 Knots. (Nore W/T 0715/20).
BEGERIN.	(British, 483 Tons) Reports at 2313/18 when 17 miles 295° South Bishops being bombed by enemy aircraft and is presumed sunk. Crew of 8 landed Milford Haven one injured. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1040B/20).
Enemy A/C shot down.	F.O.I.C. Harwich reports that at 2342/19 an enemy aircraft crashed in flames approx. two miles N.N.E. of Cork L.V. Aircraft was first engaged in pom pom fire from PRINCESS ELIZABETH which probably damaged it and was finally brought down after H.M. trawlers TRANIO, CASWELL, THOMAS LEEDS, and STELLA LEONIS had engaged it. Body of one German airman recovered by PRINCESS ELIZABETH. (C. in C. Nore 1215B/20)
ETHEL RADCLIFFE. (Bombed 16/5)	Owing to further extensive bomb damage consider vessel no longer salveable. (Chief Salvage Officer, Eastern Area, 1247B/20).

/ARCHANGEL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.5.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

ARCHANGEL. (Bombed 16/5).	C. in C. Rosyth's 0905/17. Was there any reason why ARCHANGEL should not have made the passage by day. (1st S.L. 1957B/20 to A.C.O.S).
ALA. (Bombed 17/5).	Salvage operations successfully completed. Vessel now berthed in Shoreham harbour. (R.N.O. Shoreham 2230/20).

Mining.

DIXCOVE. (Mined 19/5).	Situation well in hand. Details. One foot of water in tunnel shaft and steering gear damaged. Two London tugs standing by, third tug arriving daylight. Vessel should be able to proceed. (Adty. Salvage Officer, Southend 0205/20).
Thames Estuary.	Foreness C.H.L. reports mines dropped at 0057/20 on bearing 353° distance 27 miles height about 2500 feet. Time of fall 40 seconds. (C. in C. Nore 1150B/20).
	Seven S.A. Mines detonated as follows on 19/5 and 20/5. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1209B/20).
Operation) S.N. 64A.) S.N. 64B.)	Propose to carry out as follows, sailing 1700/22. Details. (R.A.M.L. 1237/20). See Operations Volume.
WINKFIELD. (Mined 19/5).	Wreck of S.S. WINKFIELD in 51° 34' 14" N. 01° 09' 16" E. (C. in C. Nore 1801/20).
Clyde.	Dumbuck mine located by sweeping and detonated by depth charge today. A d.c. was exploded on suspected mine off Dumbarton yesterday without results. River will now be opened without restrictions. (F.O,I.C. Glasgow 1941B/20).

/Forthcoming.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Forthcoming Operations. A.C.N.S. (H) 2152B/20. See Operations Volume.

B.S. 57. B.S. 57 will be carried out tomorrow night sailing about 1930B. One corvette and three of 4th M.S.F. will be required to accompany PLOVER. (C. in C. Nore 2224B/20). Details of Operation. (C. in C. Nore 2304B/20)

Enemy Intelligence.

JUPITER. Suspected sabotage. Your 2130B/19. Board of Enquiry being held on board JUPITER at Devonport 0930/21. (C. in C. Plymouth 1145/20 to D.N.I).

German Cruiser. One German cruiser believed LEIPZIG or NUREMBERG arrived at Sassnitz together with Hospital Ship 19/5. Graded C.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1619/20).

2 New Destroyers in North Sea. Two new German destroyers have been detected operating in the Southern part of the North Sea this evening. (D.D.I.C. 1914B/20).

Brest. Brest 1845/20. Visual R/C shows both battlecruisers present in usual berths. (D.D.I.C. 1959B/20).

Kattegat movements. Kattegat today. (a) This morning eleven German merchant vessels passed Lenker North. -(b) At 1500 two large warships type unspecified escorted by three destroyers, five escort craft, ten or twelve aircraft passed Marstrand course North West. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm 2058/20).

JOUANNE NEZ. At 1845 sighted French Fishing vessel approx. 50 ft., crew of approx. 12 seen, name JOUANNE NEZ No. D3401. Black hull, red keel, in position 4800 N. 0655 W. Twin Masts with Mizzen, brown square sails, small wheelhouse. A/C report. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2230/20)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.9 — Following are proposed arrangements for Convoy W.S.9 (D.S.T., 0340 B/20 to P.S.T.O. W. Scotland)

Blue Stern Lights. — Test of blue stern Lights to be carried out in O.B.329 S. (D.T.D. 1402B/20 to N.C.S.O's)

Convoy Speed. — Pass to N.C.S.O's, Cancel my 2044/17 (re speed of advance of northbound convoys) D.T.D. 1614B/20 to C in C's Nore Rosyth.)

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

STOKE CITY.	Defective donkey pump. Anticipate sailing P.M. 21/5. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1112/20)
MOOLTANO	MOOLTANO Has not been able to do her DG test today on account of engine room defects. (S.S.T.O. London 1525/20)
OSIRIS	My 1140B/17/5. Sailing of OSIRIS delayed by defects. Intend sailing vessel with F.N.70 on 23/5 to Nothil for onward routeing. (C in C. Nore 1556/20)
LORD AUSTIN	Has developed boiler defects preventing further patrol. (F.O.C.N.P. 2150B/20)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Irish Sea Route.

Admty. 1958/4/4. Ref. Admty. 2035/19/4. Is new dividing line in force? (F.O.C.N.A., 1010/20, to C. in C. W.A.) Reply 10568/21.

French Destroyer.

At 2000/17 off Cape Carvoeiro a French Destroyer course S.W., 10 knots. At 1600/19 off Cape Roca an unidentified destroyer course N.W., 12 knots. (N.A. Lisbon, 1023/20, to Admty.)

TRUANT.

Leaves Gibraltar 1930/20 through 036° 00'-011° 00' speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1043A/20 to N.A. Stn.)

Gibraltar Evacuation.

Further to your 1046/18, estimate of accommodation available in ARUNDEL CASTLE and NEA HELLAS presumably based on normal circumstances. In view of urgency for removal of unnecessary persons from Gibraltar these figures should be capable of being considerably exceeded. Proposals for evacuation of balance of persons remaining will be notified in due course. (D.O.D. (P) 17355/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PANDORA.

Your 1134/19. Onward route to R.V. off St. Catherines Point. PANDORA is to proceed submerged by day after passing position (D). F.O. (S) will arrange T.B.R. in area 40 and s.b.r. onwards. (F.O.S., 18448/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Bunkers Fayal

Your 1313B/15 addressed to Ponta Delgada regarding bunkering 5 Boom Defence Vessels 22/5 at Horta, Fayal. Capt. of Port states in accordance with Article XV. 13th Hague Convention only 3 vessels may be allowed here in one day unless otherwise authorised by Lisbon. Awaiting your instructions. (Vice Consul, Fayal, 1920/20, to Admty.)

/TRUANT.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

TRUANT. left for U.S.A.

Sailed in accordance with Admty., 1808/16 W/T Watch (details) until 0001 B/28 at which time TRUANT enters A.W.I.Station and shifts W/T Watch.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1946A/20, to Admty.)

TODARO
ARCOLA
(Italian.)

Teneriffe reported TODARO (Tanker) 5162 tons and ARCOLA (Tanker) 6349 tons both loading, intend leaving p.m./20.
(S.O.I. Gib., 2231A/20, to N.A. Stn.)

South Atlantic.

ZAMZAM (sunk by raider.)

Report from Alexandria Egyptian liner ZAMZAM sunk in South Atlantic, presumed by German raider. About 200 Americans on board, including 170 missionaries and 24 members of British-American Ambulance Corps going out for service with Gen. de Gaulle's Free French Forces in Africa. Cargo included 20 ambulances, etc. Vessel arrived Pernambuco 9/5 from Jersey City. (The Times 20/5.)
Following for Admiralty from State Dept., Washington. Following telegram has been sent to American Consul in Capetown by Dept., of State in Washington:-
'American Embassy at Buenos Aires has reported that S.S. ZAMZAM did not call at Buenos Aires and that the agent was not advised that the vessel had received orders to proceed there. American Consul at Pernambuco has reported that the ZAMZAM left Pernambuco on 9/4 at 7 a.m. direct for Capetown and that there is no information that the orders were changed after the vessel departed.

/He has no....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

ZAMZAM (sunk by raider.) Contd.

He has no information concerning the sinking other than that the vessel was due at Capetown on 21/4. He adds that the British Naval Intelligence at Pernambuco issued to the Captain orders to go through, en route to Capetown, the following positions: (First) 22° 40' S., 19° 00' W., and (second) 30° 20' S., and 1° 10' E. Speed of vessel was 13½ knots.' (Alusna 0330/20, to Admty.)

SALTIER.

Overdue shipping. SALTIER due Durban 15/5 not arrived.(S.O.I. Capetown,1001B/20.)

Dakar.

Spanish source reports 14 Danish and Norwegian merchant vessels in Dakar. (D 3) (N.A. Madrid, 1207/20 to Admty.)

Southbound Shipping.

Your 1608M/15. Southbound shipping is reported to F.O.C.N.A. crossing 45° N. Provided some additional volume of signalling is accepted similar information can be passed to you for 45° N., or any parallel further South. All positions are Dead Reckoning and may be subject to cumulative errors between disperal point of convoy and reporting parallel. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1212B/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

S/M's Argentina. Prohibition.

Argentine decree 90,764, 15/5/1941 prohibits belligerent S/Ms from using Argentine territorial waters except when sheltering owing to state of sea or to repair damage or for (? humanitarian) reasons. In such cases S/M must navigate on surface showing superstructure and flying international signal indicating cause of entering Argentine waters. She must follow usual routes and navigation channels and generally follow established routine for surface men of war. Penalty for infraction is internmen (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1340z/20 to C. in C.S.A.)

/Avoiding.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Avoiding Freetown.

For Commodores of O.B.323, O.B.324.
No ships are to proceed to Freetown unless they have cargo, passengers of a Commodore for that port or are proceeding there to load cargo. Ships requiring bunkers should call at St. Vincent (C.V.) or Walfish Bay for coal, and Azores of St. Vicent (C.V.) for Oil.
(D.T.D. 1357B/20 to KEPPEL, WANDERER).

Destroyer Reinforcements HIGHLANDER to return U.K.

My 2051B/17.
Following destroyers have been detailed WIVERN, VANSITTART, WILD SWAN and VIMY. First three are sailing in accordance with A.T.2236B/19. VIMY is expected to arrive Freetown end of June. On arrival of VIMY at Freetown, HIGHLANDER is to be sailed for U.K. via Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange onward passages from Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(F) 1642B/20 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

Freetown

Re diversion of ships coming to Freetown from areas in which submarines are known or suspected.
(Sierra Leone, 1831N/20 to S.O.(I)'s Freetown, Capetown).

FORTH

My 866/SM04371 of 19/5/41 para 11. In order to effect necessary transfer of material and personnel it will be necessary for FORTH to call at Gibraltar before proceeding to Freetown.
(F.O.S., 1908B/20 to Admty).

ASPHODEL
ANCHUSA
AMARANTHUS
CALENDULA.

Proceed to Bathurst for fuel with despatch, report. E.T.A.
(C. in C. S.A. 2340N/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Shipping Bosphorus.

The following vessels are reported as passing through the Bosphorus a.m./19:-
1. Rumanian CARMEN SILVA from Braila to Mytylene - A declared cargo of 2,3000 tons of wheat.
2. Roumanian CATHERINE MADRE from Braila to Salonika - 5,850 tons Wheat.
3. Italian GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI from Constanza to Dede Agach - 4,850 tons Benzine. (O.I.C. No.T.O.O. circulate 20/5)

Italian Convoy

My 1945 B/19 R/C to Northward Messina did not sight any convoy. Visibility v.g. Am cancelling sailing of 5th D/F...Intend to sail FORESIGHT in accordance with S.O.Force H 1103/16, p.m./21 weather permitting. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1049B/20 to C in C.Med)

Operation "Tiger" use of A/A Armament.

A.T.0154B/16. All ships fired a few rounds from Bofors Pompoms and Harvey projectors during attacks in Western Mediterranean (FOH 1930/9) No experience of effectiveness of Armament was gained as no aircraft approached convoy close enough to be a suitable target.
Consider ships similarly employed in future should be armed with greatest possible number of close range AA weapons and guns capable of barrage fire. Their immunity from attack on this occasion was due to abnormal weather conditions. (C.in C Med, 1054C/20 to Admty.)

OLYMPUS

Leaves Malta P.M./21 North of Pantellaria through 037° 13' (?011° or 036°) 33' 037°10' 010° 45' Skerki Channel to 038° 10' 009° 00' thence as directed by you. Anticipate OLYMPUS will arrive last position about 2100B/24. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1059B/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Malta....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

OLYMPUS contd.	Malta S/M Sanctuary conditionally in force 1600 to 2300B/21 for OLYMPUS exercising and leaving to North West. (V.A.Malta 1142Z/20 to Med. Fleet.
OLYMPUS FORESIGHT	Informing URGE of positions. (Cdr.S.1. 1107Z/20 to URGE)
Benghazi bombed	Operational Summary No. 344 up to 1200 hours 20/5/41. During night 18/19 two Wellingtons dropped nearly two tons of bombs on Benghazi.
German air bases bombed.	Seven Wellingtons dropped 8 tons of bombs on German occupied aerodromes of Hassani and Eleusis used by enemy as bases for air attack on Crete. Further five Wellingtons failed to locate objectives owing to bad visibility one of them bombing Island in Saronic Gulf.
Air attack on Crete YORK damaged.	18/5. 7 raids on Suda Bay during day. Most raids carried out with Fighter escorts. One oil tanker, one ship set on fire. One bomb hit YORK. 8 ME. 109's machine gunned Maleme. Canea Hospital bombed and machine gunned. During 19/5 continuous bombing and machine gun attacks on Maleme and Heraklion, attacks on latter being delivered at half hour intervals. Remainder of serviceable R.A.F. aircraft despatched Egypt. Occasional enemy reconnaissences of Suda Bay during day. In early morning 20/5 enemy landed gliders and parachute troops Maleme and Suda Bay after intensive bombing and machine gunning of whole area. Up to 1000 hours L.T. approximately 500 parachutists and 50 transport aircraft reported. Further transport aircraft reported approaching Island. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1112/20)

/ROVER.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

ROVER (damaged)	Your 1048/6 and C. in C. E/I 0626/15. Prefer ship should refit Singapore. (D.O.D. (F) 1215B/20 to C. in C. Med)
REGENT	Addressed: F.O.C. North Atlantic. Repeated C. in C. Med. N.O.i/c Malta 1230B. Request information of earliest date REGENT will be ready for patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea and subsequent passage to Alexandria. (Capt.S.1, 1227C/20 to F.O.C.N.A)
Greek Cyphers	Your 1329/15, para. (V), presume you are satisfied that Greek Cyphers and Codes have not been compromised or alternatively that keys have been changed. (D.N.I.1500B/20 to C. in C. Med.)
Syria Free French Policy .	Chiefs of Staff No.112 (1st S.L., 1529/20 to C. in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.
Greek Fleet.	Financial requirements approximate number at present borne - 5,000 officers and men. (C. in C. Med. 1554C/20 to Admty.)
Malta Air Raids.	C.S.R. Malta up to 1600 hours G.M.T. 20/5 times G.M.T. Night raid 0200 hours, 3 aircraft dropped bombs demolishing church and fifteen houses in Valetta, civilian casualties. No services damage or casualties. 1000 hours about 20 ME.110's and ME.109's bombed Luqa aerodrome. 1530 hours 12 ME.109's bombed Takali aerodrome. (H.Q. Malta, 1650/20)
TZAR FERDINAND (Bulgarian)	My 7/5 TZAR FERDINAND passed Istanbul 1300 C for Black Sea. (S.O.I Istanbul 1601/20 to C. in C. Med.)

/Enemy Convoy....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Convoy.	Three Merchant ships one escort vessel P/C and S of enemy 037° 56' 015° 40' 140° 9 knots. (UPHOLDER, 1844B/20 to V.A. Malta)
JADE FORESIGHT	A/S Trawler JADE will be in vicinity of position 255° Cape San Dimitri 18 miles from 0845/21. FORESIGHT will also be to the westward of Malta. (V.A.Malta, 1917B/20 to S.O. Force H.)
Suez Canal	Situation report, no change, intend to resume traffic of sweeping vessels over mined area on 22/5. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1931C/20 to Admty. etc.)
Mined area Port Said	Port Said. Area within one mile from 31° 29' N. 032° 27' 50"E suspected dangerous due to mines. T.O.O.1902/20 (R.A. Alexandria, 1936/20, to Q.B.C. 254)
SALVIA	Sailed for Alexandria at 2000 (route) Speed 8½ knots. ETA position 81 at 0700/21. 1 boiler only has been damaged. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1953C/20, to C. in C. Med.)
Funds for Greek Fleet.	Your 2018/7. Greek Admiral should be requested to apply for cash advances to his own Government in Crete, to which credits for use in Egypt have been transferred by H.M.G. Should unacceptable delay result you are authorised to make initial advance of £20,000. (Head of F. 2042B/20 to C. in C. Med.)
Situation report 32.	Crete. See my 1922C/20. Fleet movements given in my 1152/18 have been adjusted to meet situation. During night 18/19 a battalion of troops with 14 days supplies was landed by

/GLENGYLE....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.-Contd.

Situation report 32 (contd.)	GLENGYLE onbeach in Messara Bay. GLENGYLE now reported to Alexandria. An 'A' Lighter also landed three Y tanks and stores at Messara Bay night 19/20. WIDNES and KOS 22 near missed and beached today 20th. Canal Area. Canal still closed in Northern Section. Malta air R/C endeavoured to locate convoys passing between Italy and Greece but nothing was sighted. (C. in C. Med. 2120c/20 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete.

Air Attacks.

MALEME being heavily attacked. Suda Bay A/A defences attacked. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay. 0820C/20 to C. in C. Med.) Heavy bombing and machine gunning Maleme, Canea and Suda Bay area. Very large number of enemy aircraft being employed. Situation evidently developing. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0855C/20 to C. in C. Med.)

Troops landed.

Air borne troops have been landed South and South West of Canea. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0900C/20, to C. in C. Med.)

Orders to Fleet.

Move up towards Crete. (C. in C. Med., 1002C/20 to F.O.C. 7th C.S. F.O. 15th C.S., R.A.D. Mediterranean.)

AJAX.

Following received from R.A.D. (Med.) addressed C. in C. Med. Attacks continue. AJAX reduced to 25 knots. Both port shafts distorted. (Nore W/T, 1102C/20 - to Whitehall W/T.)
W.D. Note: Presumably wrong code time, should be 1102C/21.

Naval Dispositions.

Unless other developments occur following movements are intended.
Force D pass Antikithera Channel by 2200/20 and sweep Malea Hydra Phaloncera to be off Canea at 0700/21.
Force C pass Kaso Strait 2200/20 sweep round Stampalia to be off Candia at 0700/21.
Part 2 my 1138C follows.
(C. in C. Med., 1132C/20 to Med. Fleet.)

/My 1132C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete.

Naval Disposition. Contd.

My 11320/20. Force B GLOUCESTER, FIJI to pass between close off Cape Matapan at 0400/21 then join Force A. (1) in 35° 20' N., 32° 25' E., at 0700/21.
CALCUTTA pass Kaso Strait after Force C to be off Candia at 0700/21.
New Force E. D. 14, NIZAM, ILEX, DEFENDER leaves Alexandria 1400/20 to bombard Scarpanto Aerodrome at about 0400/21, using own Illuminants, returning to Alexandria on completion unless otherwise ordered.
(? CARLISLE) sails when ready to join Force E at 0700/21 in 034° 30' N., 027° 00' E. (C. in C. Med., 11380/20, to Med. Fleet.)

Enemy Disguise.

Situation 1200/20 approx. 1500 enemy troop wearing New Zealand battle dress landed by gliders parachute and troop carriers Canea-Maleme area. Military report situation in hand. Bombing of targets at Suda Bay A/A Defences. No news from Heraklion.
Small bodies of parachute troops landed in Retimo area. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1201/20, to C. in C. Med.)

Lighters at Tymbaki.

Three B Lighters were left by GLENGYLE at Tymbaki. They had orders to lie up on 19/5 and complete disembarking stores during night of 19/20. If no orders were received from you they were to make their way to Suda Bay. (C. in C. Med., 13560/20, to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.)

Maleme Held.

Situation at 1500/20. Capture of Maleme apparently the enemy's object. This has failed thus upsetting their plans.
Continuous enemy R/C accompanied by sporadic bombing and machine gunning chiefly against AA defences. Military hospital between Canea and Maleme was captured now recaptured Fairly strong enemy party South of Canea - Maleme road not yet mopped up remaining parties reported accounted for. Herakleon bombed but no landings. Retimo not yet attacked. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1501C/20, to C. in C. Med.)

/KOS. 23.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. -Contd.

KOS.23 and WIDNES damaged. Situation 1700/20. KOS (?23) and WIDNES damaged near miss. Both beached. Sporadic bombing and machine gunning considerable. Military situation as follows, parachutists Canea Area mopped up. Up to 1200 parachutists south of Canea Maleme Road being engaged, situation not yet clear. Maleme in our hands. Troop carriers which attempted to land mostly crashed. G.O.C. anticipates enemy will attempt reinforcing tomorrow. 150 planes attacked Heraklion this afternoon and parachutists were dropped at Retimo. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1701C/20 to C. in C. Med.)

M.T.B. Patrol. One M.T.B. will be patrolling in Elaphenisos Channel night of 20/21. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1731C/20 to C. in C. Med.)

Landing at Heraklion. Parachutetroops landing in this area. (Heraklion, 1732/20 to Alexandria, Suda Bay)
Books destroyed. (Heraklion, 1745/20, to Alexandria, Suda Bay)
Parachute troops landed West of Candia and on Heraklion Aerodrome. (Heraklion 1804/20, to Suda Bay)
Parachute troops landing in town and on aerodrome, situation not clear. (Heraklion, 1829/20, to Suda Bay)
Following has been read: Parachutists are wearing English battle dress. (Heraklion, 1858/20)
More troop carriers arrived east of Aerodrome. No more information. (Heraklion,1958/20, to Suda Bay)

CARLISLE My 1138C/20, CARLISLE is delayed and cannot reach R/V. CARLISLE is to proceed when ready direct from Beirut towards R/V with all convenient despatch reporting time of sailing and expected speed of advance to Capt (D) 14. (C. in C. Med. 1812C/20 to Capt D. 14 D.F.

/C. in C.Med ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete.

CARLISLE (contd.)

C. in C. Med's 1812C/20. Intend to sail at 0001C/21 making good 23 knots. (CARLISLE, 2033C/20 to Capt. D.14.)

Naval Patrols.

My 1138C/20. Cancel sweep of forces C and D. R.A. (D) Med. establish patrol, to cover Maleme Canea area and if possible Kissamo Bay. C.S.15 establish patrol to cover Heraklion and coast in vicinity. Retimo to be covered by M.T.B's and Suda Bay local craft. Dividing line between forces C and D. 025° 00' East. (C. in C. Med. 1844C/20, to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, Med. Fleet.) British Forces are operating tonight as follows against possible sea borne attack on Crete. (1) 4 destroyers approaching from south bombarding aerodromes southern part of Scarpanto commencing 0400/21 retiring to (? Alexandria) on completion. (2) Destroyers force pass through Kaso Strait 2200/20, sweep north of Stampalia, thence be off Candia at 0700/21. (3) CALCUTTA in 035° 00' 027° 20' at 2300/20 proceeding Candia. (Capt.S.1, 1849C/20 to RORQUAL, PERSEUS.)

Forces C.D. CARLISLE.

If all is quiet at 0700/21 Force C withdrawn to South through Kaso Strait. Force D withdraws towards Force A (one) Force E to Alexandria. CARLISLE joins Force C. H.Q. R.A.F. M/E pass to G.H.Q. M/Z. (C. in C. Med., 1920C/20 to Capt. D.14, R.A.D., R.A. 15 C.S.)

C. in C. Report.

Airborne attack by parachutists, gliders and troops carriers developed on Crete at 0800 accompanied by heavy bombing and has continued throughout day. Main object Maleme attack failed. Fresh parachute attack now developing at Heraklion, no

/details...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. -Contd.

C. in C. Report (contd.)

details yet. Naval forces moving in to North of Crete from both ends to deal with any seaborne attack, but naval assistance greatly hampered by lack of air R/C. (C. in C. Med. 1922C/20 to Admty.)

Enemy Boats off Candia.

Enemy patrolling off Beach West of Candia small boats carrying troops waiting to land. (Heraklion, 2108/20 to Alexandria, W/T, Suda Bay)
Amplifying report re boats is required. (Suda Bay 2241/20 to Heraklion)

Summary.

My 1922 C/20. Suda Bay (? area). (? Here) airborne attack commenced 1630. About 3000 enemy (? landed) 1200 unaccounted for at 1830. Situation reported in hand at (? 21) 00. (? Method of) attack Stukas, Messerschmidts, Gliders and Parachutes. 2. Heraklion area and Retimo airborne attack commenced (? 1730). Parachutes at Retimo in Candia and on Heraklion aerodrome. Troop carrying aircraft east of (?) aerodrome at 2000. No details yet. Boats carrying (corrupt group) troops reported off Candia Light (? closing) now. (C. in C. Med., 2340/20 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

20.5.1941.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

CAPETOWN (Torpedoed 7/4).	CAPETOWN, BOTLEA arrived, former in tow TAIKOO. (S.O.I. Bombay, 0546Z/20 to Admty. etc.)
LEANDER	To leave Colombo at 0600Z/21 and proceed to Trincomalee arriving p.m./22 and carrying out practices en route as arranged. LEANDER is to leave Trincomalee 23 and proceed to R/V with troopship ERINPURA at end of searched channel Madras on 24. Time of R/V will be signalled also further instructions. (C. in C. E.I., 0634Z/20 to LEANDER)
Convoy C.M. 9.	Re composition and troop numbers. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa 0920Z/20 to C. in C. E.I)
Hotchkiss Guns for M.V's.	My 0850/19 (not to Admty but my 0846/19 to Admty refers). There are 32 Hotchkiss guns at Aden consigned Singapore for Bathurst. In view of urgency of situation propose to retain 20 for shuttle service between Aden and Suez. (C. in C. E.I. 0952Z/20 to C. in C. China). Your 0952/20, Concur. (C. in C. China, 1516Z/20 to C. in C. E.I.) Your 1125/16 and my 0848/19 latter not to Admiralty. I am retaining these 14 guns for Red Sea Shuttle service. My 0846/19 to Admiralty refers. (C. in C. E.I., 0954Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
SS PANAGHIOTIS.	My 0850Z/19 ship's crew have now agreed to sail. (N.O.I.C. E.Africa. 0945Z/20 to C. in C. E.I.)
Mombasa congestion coal stocks.	Your 0900/17 approved. Report when stocks are available and quantity. Presume British Governor Zanzibar has been consulted and concurred. (C. in C. E.I. 0956Z/20 to D.S.T.O. Mombasa).

SS PANAGHIOTIS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

S.S. PANAGHIOTIS — Your 0850/19 being passed to Adty for Greek Shipping Committee. If crew are persuaded to sail and Master still fears trouble armed guard is to be put on board. Keep me and Adty informed of developments. (C. in C.E.I. 1000Z/20 to N.O.I.C. E. Africa & Zanzibar).

Convoy Escorts. — My 1834B/10 para 3; please confirm that escort is available for fast convoys (ILE DE FRANCE, MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM), referred to in para 3 (ii) of D. of S.T's 0300B/8, and also slow convoys referred to in para 3 (iii) of that signal. (D.O.D.(F) 1047B/20 to C. in C.E.I).

SHOREHAM. ANTENOR. — Your 0705/19 not to S.N.O. Persian Gulf and Admiralty. SHOREHAM is to be sailed with BP 4 and ANTENOR to Persian Gulf on 23/5 inner Persian Gulf Division temporarily. SHOREHAM is to escort BP 4 to Rooka after ANTENOR parts company. (C. in C.E.I. 1450Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Bombay).

China.

Chinese Officers in R.N. — I have received from Admiral Chen through Chinese Military Mission now in Malaya a request that British Govt. will accept in principle a proposal that Chinese Naval Officers should serve in H.M. Ships so as to intensify cordial relations between the two countries. These Officers would be trained. Officers available to serve in any part of the world, to gain experience or for service. (C. in C. China, 0351Z/20 to Admty.).

German Ships. — The following German Ships departed on 18/5:- Coquimbo QUITO (563), BOGOTA (84); Antogagasta, RHAKOTIS (576) Talcahuano FRANKFURT (212). (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0413Z/20 to Admty).

/Thailand.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (contd).

Thailand. — Re supply of oil. (C. in C. China, 0745Z/20 to Brit. Min, Bangkok).

N.E.I. Navy prepared to intercept French Ships. — Naval C. in C. N.E.I. has suggested that Dutch Naval vessels should endeavour to intercept French Ships bound for unoccupied French Madagascar Reunion. He realizes we may not wish on political grounds to effect interception ourselves but Dutch are quite prepared to do so. They also think some such action by them might mean effective release of Dutch Ships RHEA, PLUTO at present held up by French in Algiers and Oran. I have concurred this suggestion and will supply Dutch with all available information. (C. in C. China, 0943Z/20 to Admty.).

LIVERPOOL. — Sailed from Singapore 20/5 for Manila. (S.O.I. Singapore, 1047Z/20 to Admty.).

-BATHURST LISMORE. — To be sailed to Aden as soon as possible. R.A. Malaya is to report if it has been possible to supply them with any close range A.A. armament. (V.C.N.S. 1919B/20 to C. in C. China, etc).

BUFFALO loss. — Your 11332/5/4. Signal result Board of Inquiry loss of BUFFALO. Confirm Airey was on duty and state whether deceased was in any way to blame forloss of ship. (Head of P.M. 2216B/20 to C. in C. China).

America & West Inides.

A/S Convoy Escorts. — We are considering dispositions which would be required in event of A/S convoy escort being needed in the Newfoundland focal area. It would be of assistance to know how many of your corvettes are now available for duty on the Eastern seaboard and numbers likely to become available during next six months. (V.C.N.S. 0016B/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). Reply: 2108Z/21, Operations Volume.

/"Q".....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

"Q" Report CONTRACTOR.

Received at 1050 G.M.T/19 from Commodore O.B. 322. QQQ steamship CONTRACTOR 048° 25' N., 046° 50' W. signal very weak and no station heard to answer or repeat. (S.O. 12th Escort Group, 0559/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

DUNELMIA "Q" Report.

Your 1248B/19. Following from DUNELMIA (begins) Vessel large passenger type, did not give correct identification procedure, asked destination and departure. We gave false reply and prepared action. Challenged and he again refused to identify. He stated satisfied British and ordered to proceed. Cancel QQQQ at 0155 and 0255 as indicated A.M.S.I. (ends) (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa 1519Z/20 and to Admty.)

St. Johns N.F. as A/S Base.

Owing to U-boats operating so far to the Westward, we are now forced to use a base on the Western side of the Atlantic for escorting destroyers and corvettes. We should like to use St. Johns and request your views as to whether fog conditions will permit of this. If St. Johns is not practicable what is the nearest base further West that could be used? (1st. S.L.1717B/20 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F).
Your 1717B/20. St. Johns N.F. is defended and has best facilities in Newfoundland. Average fog not more than two to three days per month. New tank holding 4,000 tons Admiralty fuel will be ready by 1/6. Alternative would be Botwood, less fog but not yet defended and without Admiralty fuel oil as yet and ice bound from December to May. Harbours on south coast more fog, undefended, without facilities. Request information whether enquiries should be made for wharfage and storage facilities at St. Johns N.F. as all those available are privately owned. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 2232Z/20 to Admty.)

/Dakar.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Dakar Oil Stocks.	Following from War Dept. From U.S. Consul -Dakar 14/5. (Details of petrol stocks and civilian consumption) (N.A. Washington, 1722/20, to Admty.).
Trade with Martinique.	Your 0951/20/4 and 1001/18/5. Question of co-operation with regard to Dutch shipping is being taken up with Dutch Govt. It is confirmed that no Norwegian shipping will be visiting these ports. (D.T.D. 1722B/20 to C. in C.A.W.I).
Ex. U.S. Cutters.	Departure WALNEY, SENNEN, TOTLAND. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1804Z/20 to Admty etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

STARCROSS. British, 4662 tons, on passage from Lagos to Hull in Convoy S.L. 73 with a cargo of West African produce, torpedoed at 0438/20 about 400 miles W. of Valencia. (D.S. 623 20/5).
STARCROSS 51.48 N. 20.48 W. torpedoed 0237/20. (Valentia Radio, T.H.I. 0340/20). (Liverpool, T.O.R. 0438/20).
Report if STARCROSS still afloat and whether salvable. (C. in C.W.A. 1014B/20 to BOADICEA).
Your 1014B/20. STARCROSS still afloat. Master does not consider salvable as everything forward of engine room is flooded. First attempt at towing has failed. Ship sinking slowly. (ST. FRANCIS, 1105/20 to C. in C.W.A).
STARCROSS sank 1157B/20. Master all Officers and men on board SAINT FRANCIS. Result of counter attack on U Boat not known but large quantities of diesel oil seen at daylight. Am rejoining convoy Following received from H.M.S. EGRET, escort of one destroyer one sloop 2 corvettes 1 trawler considered inadequate for SL 73. Urgently request reinforcements. (ST. FRANCIS 1204/20 to C. in C.W.A).
A/C Report of STARCROSS, rescues, and direction of destroyer to U/B, which was attacked 0815. (A.C.H.Q. Liverpool 1617/20 to Admty) See Lion Copy. ST. FRANCIS reports of counter-attack, see ST. FRANCIS 1307B/20 in S/M's Attacked.

JAVANESE PRINCE. British, 8593 tons, independent. Reported sunk p.m/20 by torpedo, 59.46 N, 10.45 W., 300° Butt of Lewis 155'. (D.S. 624, 21/5) (No signal received in W.D).

EMPIRE CLOUD
BENGORE HEAD
(torpedoed 9/5). Arrived tug THAMES towing EMPIRE CLOUD escorted by ST. APOLLO with 12 survivors from BENGORE HEAD. 0831B/20.

/GAND.....

MOST SECRET.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

GAND. (torpedoed 10/5) Wakeless Periscope.	Belgian S.S. GAND 4974 on Charter to Ministry of Shipping torpedoed after dispersal of OB 318 at 2045Z/10 in 057° 54' N. 037° 34' W. Later sunk by gunfire. All C.B's seen to sink in weighted bag. 1 casualty. Boats shelled and machine gunned. U-Boat fitted with wakeless periscope. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1301/20 to Admty.).
CITY OF SHANGHAI (torpedoed 10/5)	Pernambuco reports that Argentine ship JOSEPHINE S has landed there survivors of British Ship CITY OF SHANGHAI, torpedoed by submarine in 6° 15' N. 28° 5' 30" W. on 10/5. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1404Z/20 to S.A.D. A & W.I. Stn).
SAN FELIX.	Intercepted at 1453 G.M.T. SSSS 57.32 N. 40.21 W. SAN FELIX torpedoed, 1448/20. (Port Patrick Radio, 1453/20 to Navy charge Greenock) (Halifax W/T, 1500Z/20). SAN FELIX tanker, 13,037 tons, bound from Clyde for Curacao, and had dispersed from Convoy O.B. 322 early on 20/5 (D.S. 624).
DAPHNE. (torpedoed 3/4)	Finnish, 1939 tons, which sailed from Newport News on 19/3, and overdue at Petsamo, now known to have been torpedoed on 3/4. (D.S. 624, 21/5).

8 Ships Sunk in H.X. 126 (escort AURANIA).

NORMAN MONARCH HARPAGUS. (H.X. 126)	NORMAN MONARCH and HARPAGUS torpedoed in 056° 47' N. 040° 55' W. at 0250 G.M.T. (AURANIA, 0631Z/20 to Admty). HARPAGUS 058° 03' 040° 30' 030° 9. All crew of NORMAN MONARCH on board. Some of convoy believed to be to WNW BURWELL searching in that direction. Am proceeding to (?search to) southward. (BURNHAM 1801Z/20 to C. in C.W.A).

/DARLINGTON.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

8 Ships Sunk in H.X. 126 (escort AURANIA) Ctd.

DARLINGTON COURT. BRITISH SECURITY.	57.28 N., 41.07 W., DARLINGTON COURT, BRITISH SECURITY, torpedoed. (Valentia Radio, 1300/20). Following from Resolution Island 1300/20 G.M.T. SSS 57° 28' N. 41° 07' W. DARLINGTON COURT torpedoed bearing 97 1/2, uncalibrated (ends) (Naval, Ottawa, 1442Z/20 to Admty.).
H.X. 126.	Total 8 ships in H.X. 126 sunk so far. Convoy scattered. My P.C. and S. 057° 41' N 041° 29' W., 032° 13 knots. (AURANIA 1444Z/20 to Admty. etc.)
Unknown ship.	Following from Resolution (begins) 1448/20 G.M.T. SSSS 57° 36' N. 40° 25' W. Torpedoed, name missed (Ends) Bearing 97= 1/2 uncalibrated. (Naval Ottawa 1516Z/20 to Admty)
ROTHERMERE.	SSSS. ROTHERMERE torpedoed 55.53 N. 42.30 W position doubtful. (Valentia Radio 1558/20). SSSS 1611Z/20 57.53 N. 41.39 W. ROTHERMERE torpedoed 1548/20. (Cape Race Radio, 1634Z/20)
Convoy Scattered.	H.X. 126 has scattered. BULLDOG and 3rd Escort Group joining S.C. 31 MALCOLM and 12th Escort Group endeavouring to reform H.X. 126 detailing Corvette to pick up survivors. BRITISH SECURITY and DARLINGTON COURT torpedoed 057° 28' N. 041° 07' W. (C. in C.W.A. 1558B/20 to MALCOLM, BULLDOG).
JOHN P. PENDERSON.	(Norwegian tanker on Govt. service, 6128 tons) SSSS PEDERSON torpedoed, no position given. (Malin Head, 1624/20).
GLENBEG.	57.57 N. 41.58 W. GLENBEG sighted suspicious object, probably submarine on surface 1530/20 (ends). (Valentia Radio 1646/20 to Admty.).

/Detach.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

8 Ships Sunk in H.X. 126 (escort AURANIA) Ctd.

Detach HELIOTROPE or another corvette to proceed with all despatch to take HONTESTROOM in company to positionof torpedoed ships SAN FELIX 057° 32' N. 040° 21' W. DARLINGTON COURT and BRITISH INTEGRITY (? BRITISH SECURITY 057° 28' N. 041° 07' W. ROTHERMERE 057° 53'N 041° 39' W. Pick up (? survivors) report progress. Four other ships torpedoed positions not yet known. (S.O. 12th Escort Group 1821Z/20 to MALLOW, HELIOTROPE).
Take charge of corvettes and trawlers and endeavour to protect scattered ships of H.X. 126, detaching what ships you consider necessary. All ships endeavour to regain route by position 061° 00' N. 036° 00' W. Bring merchant ships. Report progress. (S.O. 12th Escort Group, 1841Z/20 to MALLOW).
Endeavour to protect scattered ships acting as far as possible in accordance with my 1841Z/20. (S.O. 12th Escort Group, 1903Z/20 to BURNHAM).
464 NORTHERN GEM and NORTHERN WAVE are to search area for ships torpedoed in H.X. 126 under orders of Corvette detailed by MALCOLM. Corvette detailed is to report her name.
A most thorough search for all survivors is to be made, trawlers using corvette as wireless link if they have difficulty in communicating with C. in C.W.A. HONTESTROOM is to assist but is to be escorted. (C. in C. W.A. 1910B/20 to MALLOW, VERBENA, ARABIS, HONTESTROOM, HELIOTROPE, NORTHERN WAVE, NORTHERN GEM).
Your 1910B/20 ARABIS detailed. (S.O. 12th Escort Group 2004Z/20 to C. in C. W.A).
Following from Resolution Island (begins) 1812 G.M.T. SSSS 99 degrees no particulars. Interference (ends) (Naval Ottawa 1940Z/20 to Admty.)
Following from Resolution Island:- 1620 G.M.T. "PEDERSON torpedoed" No position given, no bearings signals too short. Also 1645 G.M.T. "SSS 57° 57' N. 41° 58' W. GLENBEG sighted suspicious object, probably submarine on surface at 1530/20" Bearing 99° (Ends)-(Naval Ottawa 1957Z/20 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Your 1146B and My 0601Z (N.T. in W.D) MALCOLM proceeding to H.X. 126. SCIMITAR proceeding to fuel. My P.C. and S. are 060° 10' N. 036° 55' W. 218° 12 knots. (S.O. 12th Escort Group 1131Z/20 to C. in C W.A).

1150Z. One S/M bearing 113 distance 8 miles course 035° position 313° 57° N. 41? W. 19 S. (AURANIA, 1150Z/20 to Admty.)
My 1150Z, S/M diving. (AURANIA 1213Z/20).
AURANIA's 1150Z. Am proceeding with BURWELL MALLOW following with remainder. (BURNHAM 1259Z/20 to C. in C.W.A).
Following received from AURANIA (quotes 1150Z/20 and 1213Z/20) (C. in C.W.A. 1522B/20 to WOLFE).
P.C. and S. BURNHAM (? BURWELL) 058° 09' N. 040° 13' W. 218° 27 knots. MALCOLM 059° 16' N 038° 18' W. 218° 27 knots. 35% fuel remaining MALLOW with corvette, trawler and HONTESTROOM 058° 42' N. 039° 03' W. 214° 10½ knots. (S.O. 12th Escort Group, 1651Z/20 to C. in C W.A).

By NICOYA 1600 G.M.T. Following has been read. SSSS 1800 G.M.T. 57.56 N. 40.00 W. Sighted Submarine on surface. (NICOYA 1813/20 Valentia Radio 1813/20).
I went to position given NICOYA found nothing. Present P.C. and S. 058° 15' 040° 05' 037° 10 with DORELIAN joined ship ahead. Saw no other ship to Southward. (BURNHAM 2129Z/20 to MALCOLM).

0912. Admty. report an Italian U-boat probably carrying out tests off the Mouth of the Gironde River at 0912/20. One Beaufort of 217 Squadron armed with 4 X 250 lbs A/S bombs and 2 X 250 lbs. GP bombs is to locate and destroy. Aircaft is to approach position from the West. Returning northwestwards along French Coast to attack enemy shipping in the event of the U-Boat not being located. (Plymouth A.H.Q. 1115/20 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1213B/20) (F.O.S. 1444B/20).

/2340.....

MOST SECRET.

WarDDiary.

20.5.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

2340. Submerged submarine bearing 165 distance 1 miles course unknown my position 52.50 N. 18.17 W. (ST. FRANCIS, 2340/20 to Admty.).

Submarines Attacked.

By ST. FRANCIS. (ST. FRANCIS, 1204/20 A.C.H.Q. Liverpool 1617/20) See Ships Attacked.

C.A.F.O. 380/41.
(A) Contact obtained at 0454 approx. 3 miles 270° from STARCROSS. 2 Counter attacks at 0510B and 0518B in approx. position 279° 4 miles from STARCROSS. Result unknown but very large quantity of Diesel oil seen on surface at daylight.
(B) Portside forward. Yes.
(C) Zigsag 3000 yards from Port beam of STARCROSS. 2 escorts only present.
(D) STARCROSS Column pendant 14. Last ship of port column. Sunk at 1157B.
(E) 0405B/20 in 051° 48' N. 020° 47' 30" W.
(F) Course 080° from 0330B/20. No Zigzaging.
(G) Weatherovercast sea slight Visibility 2½ mls.
(L) At 0235 heard noise very similar to echoing sound of machines. Noise varied as from deep to shallow set and was not recognised as coming from Submarine. Investigated off Port Beam of convoy until 0345. No echo obtained extent of target varied from 30° to Starboard side. Noise classified as non-submarine and rejoined convoy. U-Boat on the surface approached astern between ST. FRANCIS and STARCROSS 2 torpedoes fired 1 hitting. (ST. FRANCIS 1307B/20 to Admty. C. in C.W.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

SUFFOLK left Denmark Strait Patrol this morning for Hvalfjord to fuel, after which she is to join F.O.1st C.S.

Enemy main Units.

A BISMARCK class battleship and a HIPPER class cruiser were seen at Bergen by aircraft R/C at 1330B/21. A destroyer, 9 large merchant vessels and 6 small craft were also reported.

MINERVE is to patrol near 61° 53' N. 3° 15' E and P.31 west of Stadlandet.

Aircraft were despatched to attack during dark hours tonight, but failed to locate the enemy ships.

Cruisers' aircraft.

9 Home Fleet cruisers are to have their I.E. complements increased to 2 Walrus provided from 701 Squadron which is to be disbanded.

British Air Operations.

Bombed Command Aircraft attacked Heligoland this afternoon.

Owing to the weatherall aerodromes on the west coast became unserviceable during the forenoon, so that patrols and escorts had to be recalled.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

N.W. Approaches — Convoy O.B. 324 reported being attacked at 0815 in 58° 54' N. 8° 47' W. There is no report of damage.

-An enemy aircraft reconnoitred the Thorshaven area today and machine gunned the H.F. D/F Station. Sumbo Sydero village was also machine gunned.

Mining.

Milford Haven was closed at 0241 owing to suspected minelaying.

South Atlantic.

S.S. ZAMZAM. — The Egyptian ZAMZAM left Pernambuco on 9/4 and was due at Capetown on 21/4. On 13/5 the London Agents were informed that the ship was missing, presumed lost. On 7/5 C. in C.S.A. was informed that the ship may have been attacked by a raider. A German broadcast, which is not confirmed states that passengers and crew have landed in occupied France.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

French Naval Units.	It is reported that 3 S/M's and other French naval units left Beirut a.m./19 for an unknown destination. A later report indicates the possibility that the ships are engaged on operations.
Malta.	Luqa Aerodrome was bombed today and some of our aircraft were damaged and destroyed.
Operation "Splice".	S.O. Force H. reported on this operation today. 5 Fulmars and 47 Hurricanes arrived at Malta. One Hurricane was lost in the sea off Cape Bon, cause unknown, and one Hurricane was destroyed after landing by air raid. "Lack of endurance and unreliability of Fulmars for this type of operation clearly demonstrated".
Enemy force attacked.	URGE today attacked a force of 2 CONDOTTIERI cruisers and 3 or 4 destroyers in 35° 30' N. 12° 25' E, north ofLampedusa. It is reported that one destroyer was sunk.

Attack on Crete.

Bombardment of Scarpanto.	Capt. (D) 14 and 2 destroyers bombarded Scarpanto early today.
Air attack on Greek air bases.	Six, out of 10 Wellingtons despatched last night bombed Molaoi, Eleusis, Menidi and Toplia aerodromes which the Germans are using as bases for the present operations against Crete.

The enemy are reported to be preparing a landi landing ground in Milos.

/Force C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

Force C.

Force C. was attacked last night in Kaso Channel by torpedo carrying aircraft and by E. boats. No damage was caused to our ships, but JUNO sank two E boats.

JUNO sunk.

The force was continuously and heavily bombed from 0950 onwards. At 1251 JUNO was sunk by bombing in 34° 35' N. 26° 34' E (off the S.E. end of Crete) CARLISLE joined the force early in the afternoon.

RORQUAL last night sank by gunfire 2 caiques full of enemy troops.

The 5th D.F. left Malta at dusk to join the forces operating off Crete.

Suda Bay Area.

E-boats are reported to have operated in Kissamo Bay last night.

R.A. (D) Med. covering the Maleme Canea area reported this morning that his force had been subjected to considerable dive bombing since dawn and that AJAX had been damaged.

Light German Naval units were reported in 35° 40' N. 23° 25' E. at 0850.

More troops were dropped in the Maleme area from 0950 and 1615, and there was heavy bombing at 1000. The enemy are reported to be preparing a landing gr und at Aliakanon S.W. of Canea.

KOS 21 and S.S. SYVERN were heavily attacked at1315 (presumed in Kissamo Bay).
At 1330 naval armement dumps was hit and exploded.

At 2316 the enemy held Maleme Aerodrome and the area to the west.

/Candia.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

Candia Area.

At 0200 it was reported that four ships were landing troops in a bay west of Candia.

At 18200 the port of Heraklion and part of the town were in the hands of the enemy.

Enemy Convoys.

At 1600 the approximate positions of the enemy convoys were reported to be as follows:-
(a) 13 ships 5 miles north of Polykandio.
(b) 15 ships with 3 T.B.D's in 37° N. 24° 10' E. course 190° (N.W. of Milos).
(c) 9 ships with T.B.D. in 36° N. 24° 20' E. (about 30 miles N. of Suda Bay).
(d) Convoy escorted by 2 destroyers in 37° N 23° 55' E. (This is possibly the convoy of 17 ships reported at 1820 20 miles North of Canea Bay, steering south).
(e) 20 fishing vessels escorted by A/C in 36° 10' N. 24° 0' E.

America & West Indies.

Atlantic convoy escorts.

The R.C.N. offer to undertake the task of A/S convoy escorts in the western part of the North Atlantic.

SHEHERAZADE intercepted.

DIOMEDE intercepted French tanker SHEHERAZADE at 0700Z today, 800 miles east of Bermuda, whithershe is being sent.

Unprecedented air activity is reported at Martinique.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

W.O. and A.M. Vessels.

It is requested that all vessels operating under your control may be instructed that before making a coastal passage they are to obtain the latest routing instructions.
2. Captains of such vessels should also be acquainted and adhere to the traffic regulations of the port of arrival. (D.of.L.D. 0841B/21 to War Office and Air Ministry.)
Military and Air Force authorities have been asked to instruct Captains of all vessels operating under their control that, before making a coastal passage, they are to obtain the latest routing and traffic instructions.
2. Naval authorities are to ensure that these have been applied for before such vessels are allowed to leave harbour. (D.of.L.D. 1150B/21.)

BLACK SWAN STORK.

Your 1227B/20. BLACK SWAN arrived Scapa 16th and STORK 19th May. Both these ships are newly commissioned and have a large percentage of their ships companies who have never been to sea.
Though every endeavour will be made to work up these ships as quickly as possible it is not anticipated they will complete before 12/6. (R.A.D. 1115B/21 to C.in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

Faroes A/A Defences of Thorshaven.

One Heinkel aircraft reconnoitred Thorshaven Area Air operation 0915 to 0945 today.
High frequency D/F Station was circled three times at low altitude and machine gunned.
No casualties or damage or attack elsewhere.
In view of importance of this station request adequate A/A protection Thorshaven area may be regarded as a priority allocation.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1106B/21 to A.C.O.S.)
Your 1533/9. It has been decided that the provision of A.A. defences for Thorshaven is not justifiable at present.
(D.of.L.D. 1740B/21 to A.C.O.S.)

/Isle of Wight .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (contd.)

Isle of Wight. Net Defences. A.M. 2219/9/4.. Intend sailing ATALANTA 0800/22 to commence laying defences Isle of Wight. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1813B/21)

Movements.

REPULSE. R.A.D. H.F. is to sail 5 destroyers, as soon as ready, to Clyde as A/S Screen for REPULSE. REPULSE, screened by these destroyers, is then to proceed Scapa with all convenient despatch. (C.in C.H.F. 2353B/21.)

Operations.

IRIS. Cable ship IRIS at present loading cable at Dalmuir will be ready to sail about 23/5 to lay a cable between Benbecula and Loch Slapin.
2. Request you will arrange such escort or protection as you consider necessary during these operations.
3. IRIS will proceed to Port Z.A. on completion to lay another cable. (D.O.D.H. 0036B/21 to C.in C. W.A.)

SUFFOLK. SUFFOLK is to leave patrol and proceed to Hvalfjord. (C. in C.H.F. 1042B/21)
SUFFOLK is to join F.O.C. 1st C.S. as soon as refuelled. (C. in C. H.F. 2004B/21)

3rd D.F. Return to Scapa on reaching Butt of Lewis. (C. in C.W.A. 1557B/21 to 3rd D.F.)

/Enemy .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(contd.)

Enemy Battleship and Cruiser at Bergen.

Admiralty 1717B/21. If you can possibly spare P.31 request she may be sailed forthwith and proceed with despatch to patrol 25 miles West of Stadlandet. (F.O.S. 1826B/21 to C. in C. H.F.)

BISMARK and HIPPER sighted at Bergen today. Proceed to patrol in vicinity of 61° 53' N. 03° 15' E. proceeding with despatch when it is reasonable to do so.
T.B.R. arranged east of 03° E. between 58° N. and 62° N. (F.O.S. 1853B/21 to MINERVE.)

Request Capt. (D) 8 and his Destroyers may be ordered as quickly as possible to proceed to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1950B/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 1826B/21. Entirely concur.
(C. in C. H.F. 2045B/21 to F.O.S.)

To A.C.O.S. Regret inconvenience.
ARETHUSA is to remain at Hval Fiord at disposal of F.O.C.1st C.S. (C. in C. H.F. 2124B/21 to ARETHUSA)

MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM proceed to Skaabay Fjiord Faroes, with all convenient despatch. After refuelling resume patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 2136B/21)

P.31 sailed, escort HAMLET passing Switha Gate at 2300/21 eastward of Orkneys and Shetland to position 61° N. 0° 30' E. thence routed 62° 20' N. 2° 50' E. 62° 20' N 4° E. (A.C.O.S. 2301B/21, 2102/21)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

MARMION Fighter protection.

Intend sailing paddle M/S MARMION in tow of tug KENIA escorted by an A/S trawler at 0600/22 to Southend, speed of advance 6 knots Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0110B/21)

Patrols.

Cancel my 2126/20. (C. in C. Rosyth 0600/21) Following air patrols being flown today taking off 0700 BERT, STAB, TROST. (C. in C. Rosyth 0614/21.)

Special R/C of Trondheim being carried out a.m. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0804/21)

My 0614/21. Add Patrol STAND taking off about 1050. (C. in C. Rosyth 0950/21)

R/C Trondheim returned owing to mechanical failure. Further attempt being made p.m. today. Patrol STAND cancelled owing to lack of cloud cover but area will be covered by P.R.V. R/C. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1202/21)

Admiralty's 1717/21. Following R/C's will take place at first light/22, TROST, STAB, BERT, STAND. (C. in C. Rosyth 2302/21.)

701 Squadron to disband. I.E. complements of ships.

C. in C. H.F. 1203/17, C.in C. Coastal Commands 0930/16 and Admiralty's 1408/15. 701 Squadron is to be withdrawn forthwith from operations under Coastal Command and are to proceed to Hatston where Squadron is to be disbanded. The I.E. complements of ships addressed will then be increased to two Walrus. Aircraft and crews are to proceed to Hatston as soon as possible, but the observer position does not at present admit of a second observer being appointed to each ship. 1504/3/1 is cancelled. (D.N.A.D. 1120B/21)

/Escorts .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd.)

Escorts. Expect air escort by Ansons tomorrow 22nd and by Hudsons throughout 23rd. Blenheims will be standing by at Sumburgh on 23rd to reinforce escort if Fock Wulf activity develops. (C. in C. Rosyth 1250/21 to R.A.M.)
Unable to continue air escort owing to weather. (C. in C. Plymouth 1536/21 to TYNEDALE)

Enemy Warships at Bergen. Admiralty's 1603/21. 6 Whitley and 10 Hudson Aircraft detailed to attack during dark hours tonight. (C. in C. Rosyth 1824/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.5.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

JOSEFINA THORDEN (Bombed 19/5)

Connected and towing JOSEFINA THORDEN. Tow parted, ship steering badly, impossible make fast present conditions. Ship still burning. Request instructions. (BRIGAND 0021/21)
Your 0021/21. Continue standing by and endeavour to pass tow when conditions permit. (A.C.O.S. 0154B/21 to BRIGAND)
Your 0754. Unidentified aircraft sighted at 1030B/21 steering N.W. JOSEFINA THORDEN's fire appears to be out. Ship has heavy list to starboard. Tugs will connect as soon as practicable. Position D.R. 062° 11' N., 009° 28' W. (NORTHERN CHIEF 1200B/21)

Convoy O.B. Even.

Even convoy O.B. is being attacked by aircraft in 58° 54' N., 8° 47' W. (Plymouth, 0815/21.)

MARMION (Bombed 9/4)

My 0110/21. Postponed 48 hours. Request similar arrangements be made. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1020B/21)
MARMION refloated at High water and berthed Trinity Pier. (Salvage Officer Harwich 1230/21)

ARCHANGEL (Bombed 16/5)

Your 1957B/20. ARCHANGEL was sailed to arrived outer buoy Aberdeen at 0400/17 giving her an estimated position about 25 miles North of Kinnairds Head one hour after sunset. With fighter and A/A destroyer escort this was considered safe. It is desirable to adhere to the weekly relief programme and a daylight passage would have entailed a delay of at least twelve hours. (A.C.O.S. 1100/21 to Admty.)
My 1227/17. Chief Salvage Officer Scotland recommends no further action possible to salve SS ARCHANGEL and that vessel would be considered a constructive total loss. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1159/21)

/A/C shot down.....

MOST SECRET

21.5.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

A/C shot down by UMGENI	UMGENI 8180 tons shot down F.W. aircraft 55° 10' N., 17? 10' W. at 0545 G.M.T./19 5 survivors rescued and landed Belfast. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1315B/21)
Faeroes Bombed.	German aircraft un-specified type machine gunned village Sumbo Sydero at 1950 today. Slightly injured 2 children. (N.O.I.C. F Faeroes, 2015B/21)
SAN FABIAN	(British Tanker, 13,031 tons) Damaged during recent Air-Raids at Liverpool. (D.S. 624)
BLUESTONE	(British Passenger Steamer, 106 tons) Constructive Total Loss by Air Attacks on London (D.S. 624)

Mining

Milford Haven	Port is closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0241/21)
S.N. 64.	Departure Port Z.A. SCOTT. (TRELAWNEY 0805/21) R.A.M. 1237B/20.Concur. (C. in C. H.F. 1000B/21) My 1237/20. Item Z. Delete Code word. (R.A.M. 1231/21) Paragraph 2 of my 1057 B 20 is cancelled. Escort is not now available for operation S.N. 64. (C. in C. H.F. 2356B/21)

/S.N. 66.....

War Diary

21.5.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

S.N. 66.
S.N. 67. A.
S.N. 67. B.
S.N. 70.
: Propose to carry out after S.N. 64 as follows. Particulars. (R.A.M.L. 1014/21) See Operations Volume.

Thames Estuary.: One magnetic mine detonated at 0026/21/5 by LL Trawlers in position 214° B. 5 2 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1049/21)

B.S. 57.: Your 2304B/20. Intend to sail 1950 today to lay at 0245/22. (PLOVER 1101B/21 to C. in C. Nore)

P.W. 10.: Weather permitting carry out Operation P.W. 10 tonight. (With P.D.M. settings given in my 1114/22/4) Report boats detailed and time of sailing. (C. in C. Nore, 1140B/21 to BEEHIVE)

Faeroes N. Rona Minefield.: Admiralty's 2152/20. Para 2. not to C.D.B. or Hatston. Propose Monday 26th for conference. (C. in C. H.F. 1507B/21)

B.S. 57 postponed 24 hours due to bad weather. (C. in C. Nore. 1947B/21 to PLOVER)

Enemy Intelligence

PRINZ EUGEN: My 1126B/20. It is reliably reported that PRINZ EUGEN was at Gdynia on 14/5. Graded B. 1. (D.D.I.C. 0008B/21)

Kattegat Movements on 20/5.: Your 2058/20. Para 1. signal latitude and longitude of LENKER. (N.A. Stockholm 0400B/21)
Following has been received from N.A. Stockholm. Grade B.3. On the morning of 20/5 11 German merchant vessels were reported in the Kattegat Northward bound. At 1500/20 2 large German warships, escorted by 3 destroyers 5 escort craft, and 10 to 12 aircraft passed Marstrand, Co. N.W. (D.D.I.C. 0421B/21 and 0435B/21)
Your 0400B/21. KULLEN 56° 18' N., 12° 27' E (N.A. Stockholm 0738/21 to Admty.)

/Baltic....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.5.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Baltic Movements.

(a) Rugen on 14/5 a number of transports passed Northwards to Belts.
(b) Danzig May 8th - large vessels HAMBURG and IBERIA observed in port.
(c) Swinemunde 10/5 - ISAR loaded a number of special floats each believed to be motor at eight knots and carry fifty men.
(d) Trinerwerft floating dock left in tow of four tugs first week anchored. Still unlocated. B.2. repeat B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1019/21)

Unknown Trawler S.W. of Faeroes.

Spanish DIANA GT. 1196 reports sighting at 2305/18 in approx. 62° 21' N., 12° 13' W steering 060° small grey painted Trawler. Red Flag at peak of main mast which could not be identified. Gun mounted aft. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1233/21)

2 Cruisers and 1 Destroyer at Bergen.

Visual R/C of Bergen at 1330B/21 reports 2 HIPPER Class cruisers and one destroyer present. (D.D.I.C. 1603B/21)

Photographs taken at 1330/21 show a battleship 795 X 105 feet presumed BISMARCK anchored at 60° 19' 48" N., 5° 14' 48" E. with 3 M.V's 450 - 500 feet and cruiser 670 X 75 feet presumed Hipper class anchored at 60° 25' 16" N., 5° 1[illegible]' 20"E with one destroyer 415 feet and 6 M.V's 200 to 400 feet and 6 smaller craft. (P.R.U. Wick 1715/21 to 18 Group)
My 1603B/21. Photographs show ships to be one Bismarck class battleship and one Hipper class cruiser. (D.D.I.C. 1717B/21)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 124.

Congratulations on successful way in which you brought all ships of Convoy H.X. 124 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A. 1757/21 to Adm. A.J. Davies).
36 ships, including 7 Allied 1 Neutral Cargoes. (D.S. 626, 23/5).

Continuous Atlantic Escorts, St. John's Base.

Initial arrangements to implement decision to escort convoy continuously to Canada are well in hand. OTTAWA and RESTIGOUCHE are proceeding St. John's (NF) on completion of duties with W.S.8B. SAGUENAY PIORUN and ASSINBOINE will follow after escorting W.S.9 These will be followed at intervals to focal points required by other destroyers and Corvettes as they become available. Questions of operational control at St. John's (N.F) and in Canada have been considered and I am very agreeable if a F.O. and Capt. (D) from R.C.N. are appointed this duty. Considered that desirability of appointing a Capt. (D) and staff for duty in Iceland (C) is becoming apparent. (C. in C. W.A. 2257B/21 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BRIGHTON.	BRIGHTON has a defective Dynamo and will not be available for S.N. 64. (R.A.M. 1221/21)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General - Raiders.

Atlantic.

My 2217B/14. A report, B.2, received that No. 10 returned to Germany in April. By D/F one unit was in area 20° to 30° N. 40° to 50° W. on 16/5. Three ships overdue at Freetown and one at Rio de Janeiro all from U.K. but these may be U/B casualties. Germans announced Egyptian ZAMZAM sunk and all passengers and crew landed in Occupied France. Raider may have been No 46, sending prisoners back in Supply Ship. A ship resembly No. -16 was sighted in 24° 45' S. 24° 29' W.on 3/5. If this was No. 16 she may be returning home.

Indian Ocean.

By D/F one and possibly two units were South of Chagos on 17th 18th and 19th/5. No 33 was reported to be expecting a supply ship. If two units are present one may be a raider as two raiders operated in Indian Ocean, August to November 1940.

Pacific.

Shelling of TAMESIS on 15/4 now discredited. No evidence ofraiders in Pacific. Five German ships have recently left Chile. Some may R/V with raiders in South Atlantic in same way as PORTLAND and RIO GRANDE. (D.D.I.C. 1748B/21 to C. in C.HE, N.A. Washington etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21. 5. 1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Irish Sea Route.	Your 1010/20, new dividing line is now in force and buoys have been laid. (C. in C. W.A., 1056B/21, to F.O.C.N.A.)
ARUNDEL CASTLE.	Catalina Air Borne 1030 to locate ARUNDEL CASTLE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058/21, to HAVELOCK.)
Bunkers at Fayal.	Your 1920/20. Request you will explain to S.O. in JENNET who is to make the necessary arrangements to comply with Portuguese requirements. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1104B/21 to V. Consul, Fayal.)
WRESTLER.	If fuel restrictions do not permit you to comply with my 2342/20 return to Plymouth. (F.O.C.N.A., 1133A/21, to WRESTLER.)
S/M's.	Position 1200 A/22 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1210A/21.)
MARON.	Intend sailing MARON at 2130B/21 for V.1, V.2. patrols routed through 033° 30' N., 009°(?40' 26') W., 029° 05' N., 012° 30' W speed 12 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1248/21 to Admty, OTTAWA.)
RENOWN escort duty Operations "Tracer" "Rocket."	A.T. 1311B/17 and 2059B/19. Request arrangements be made for RENOWN to afford escort for VICTORIOUS, ARGUS and S.S. NEA HELLAS to U.K. In order that ships may sail as early aspossible, suggested that aircraft for operation "TRACER" should be landed at Gibraltar to await return of ARK ROYAL and FURIOUS from operation "ROCKET". Request you report your intended programme. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1516B/21 t F.O.C.N.A.) (Cancelled, see 1020B/22.)

/French.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

French Units.

At 1900/19 off Cape Carvoeiro a French cargo boat escorted by French (?destroyers), course W., 8 knots.
At 1230/20 off Cape Santa Maria, 2 unidentified cruisers, course W., 15 knots.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1637/21, to Admty.)

Unidentified Cruisers.

At 1600/20 off Portimao 2 unidentified cruisers, course W., 13 knots.
At 1700/20 off Sagres 2 Spanish cruisers, course N., W., 14 knots.
(A.N.A. Lisbon, 1744/21, to Admty.)

Operation "Splice".

Results and recommendations for future operations. (S.O. Force H., 2120/21, 2140/21 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
Your 2140/21 (A) Para. 2 (preference for escort is in order given. In any case no more than one Sunderland Machine accepted. (B) A.O.C. Med., and I concur generally.
(V.A.Malta, 2206B/22, to S.O.Force H.)

South Atlantic.

U/B Reports.

Suggested diversion of shipping.
(D.T.D. 01223/21, to C.in C. S.A.)
Your 0122/21/5. Diversions have been made. Last report of known submarine was 2035/18/5 area afterwards searched by aircraft and surface vessels. General policy is (details). Suggestions in any particular case welcomed as other knowledge may be available to Admiralty or some factor overlooked.
(C. in C. S.A. 2131 N/21, to Admty.)

/ERICA.....

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

ERICA. Simonstown departure 0840/21 ERICA for Durban Mombasa and Aden. E.T.A. Durban 1000/24. Route to Aden in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1110/18/4. (P.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0857z/21, to Admty., etc.)

NORSEMAN cable ship. My 2104 Z/20. Western telegram request that search be made for cable ship NORSEMAN. Vessel left Montevideo 8/5 for 35.30 S 52. 30 W., and last communication received from her 12/5.
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 1314 ?Z/21 to R.A.S.A.D.)
My 1314Z/21 Western report that NORSEMAN has just communicated with Aden and that ship is safe. (S.O.I., Montevideo 1506Z/21.)

SIR ERNEST CASSEL. Due Capetown 17/5 not arrived.
(S.O.I., Capetown, 1515B/21.)

INTREPIDO (Panama.) Due Durban 16/5 not arrived.
(S.O.I., Capetown, 1516B/21.)

"CHARLES L.D." (French.) Arrived.
(Port Elizabeth, 1706B/21.)

D/F Reports. Your 0526Z/12/5 not to Admiralty. Positions suggested by D/F Bearings from S.A., and F.E. as follow. Reported that German Agents giving shipping information simulate amateurs.
(C. in C. S.A., 1755N/21, to Capt. O.S. Singapore.)

/BUTTERFLY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

BUTTERFLY. — Italian, at Pernambuco, has proceeded alongside to load 40 tons of rubber. No indications of sailing at present. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1757N/21, to D.N.I.)

ALBATROSS. refit. — Your 16368/19/. Anticipate ALBATROSS will leave Freetown 29/5. Dates to arrive Simonstown and return to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2017N/21, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

ZANZAM — Your 1142/20. s.s. ZANZAM sailed Pernambuco 9/4 due Capetown 21/4. London Agents informed 13/5 that ship was missing presumed lost. C in C.S.A. informed 7/5 that ship may have been attacked by raider. German broadcast not confirmed states passengers and crew landed occupied France. (D.T.D. 01343/21 to R.A. Alexandria)

CACHALOT, PARTHIAN — Alexandria Submarine Sanctuary will be in force 0200 to 0600/22 for CACHALOT arriving from Westward and PARTHIAN from Eastward. All times G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 02050/21, to Med.Fleet, Force "I")

DERNA — 22/5 departure for Genoa (Barcelona 0302/21)

FLAMINGO, GRIMSBY, VOLO — Expect to arrive 1800 with GRIMSBY and VOLO. (Flamingo, 0710/21 to R.A. Alexandria)

French Units, Beirut. — Report graded A.2 that 3 submarines and other French Naval Ships left Beirut a.m./19 for unknown destinations. (Capt.O.S., Alexandria, 0735C/21 to Med. Fleet.)

Beaufighters. — Four Beaufighters acting as escort to Hurricanes off "Splice" operation leave here for Dekheila today or early 22/5. O.C. 252 is now very concerned over state of Beaufighter Aircraft and it is considered advisable to despatch all his Aircraft to U.K. first opportunity since they cannot receive attention they require either here or in Egypt until spares and equipment become available. Four Aircraft not proceeding you on escort duty have therefore been despatched Gibraltar from here. (H.Q. Malta 0804/21)

/Enemy Units .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

Enemy Units. 5 Merchant ships one escort vessel in 037° 56' 015° 40' C. and S. 140° 9 Knots. report at 1844B/20. (C. in C. Med. 1008C/21 to Med. Fleet)

ABDIEL My 1121 C/19. Do not join force A.1. Proceed direct to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med, 1035C/21, to ABDIEL)

Enemy Ships in Bosphorus The following vessels are reported as passing through the Bosphorus on 19.5.41. a.m. Roumanian Ship CARMEN SILVA from Braila to Mytylene - A declared cargo of 2,300 tons of wheat.
Italian ship CATHERINE MADRE from Braila to Salonika - 5,850 tons wheat.
Italian ship GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI from Constanza to Dede Agach - 4,850 tons Benzine. (D.D.I.C. 1057B/21 to C. in C. Med, C.O.I.S. Alexandria, V.A. Malta)

UNION
UNBEATEN
UPRIGHT
URSULA
UTMOST
URGE Malta Sanctuary in force 0100 to 0700/B 22. for UNBEATEN arriving. 1930 to 2200 B/23 for UPRIGHT leaving. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1123B/21 to Med. Fleet)
Intend following dispositions. UNION leaves Malta p.m./21 for area K. as in my 1500B/11. UNBEATEN due Malta a.m./22. UPRIGHT leaves Malta p.m./23 for Calabrian coast then to area M to relieve UPHOLDER. UTMOST probably leaves Malta p.m./24 for Hammamet then to relieve URGE in area L. URSULA leaves Malta p.m./24 for coast patrol from Misurata westward to Zuara and return via Gabes.
URGE and UPHOLDER from Malta a.m./26.
(Cdr.S.1, 1128B/21, to Capt. S.1)

/OLYMPUS .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

OLYMPUS	My 1059/20 OLYMPUS delayed about four days by defective air compressor. (V.A. Malta, 1131B/21 to FORESIGHT, F.O.C.N.A) Cancel my 1131B/21. OLYMPUS sailing tonight 21/5 as arranged. (V.A. Malta, 1750B/21 to FORESIGHT etc.)
LISBOA (German)	Arrived Cartagena 20/5. (V.Consul, Cartagena 1137/21)
9 Italian Destroyers.	My 0844 (9 Italian destroyers reported at Chios). Place should read Keos Island. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1154C/21, to F.O.C. 7th C.S.
Greek shipping German control.	Greek Consul states Master of Greek Steamer THERESIA NOMICOS has received instructions from owner in Athens to proceed to Salonica and carry food from there to Piraeus. Consul suspects other Greek ships have had similar instructions via German channels. Master of WARLIFA is in fact showing insubordination having been ordered by Consul to claim his cargo of coke here. Puppet Greek Gov. have decreed forfeiture of property of Officers and crews if they are refusing to return to occupied Greece. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1215/21 to C. in C. Med.)
UNION	Leaves Malta p.m./21 through 036° 20' 012° 40' for area K. 035° 28' 011° 19' - 320° - 30 - 65. (Cdr.S.1. 1225B/21 to URGE)
CAVARINA Roumanian	Arrived from Braila 20/5. Cargo 150 tons of German munitions of war for Persia, 830 tons machinery. (Samsun, 1230/21 to M. of W.T.)

/CAPO ARMA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

CAPO ARMA (Italian)	Left Istanbul 20/5 for Braila. (N.C.S.O. Galata, 1322C/21)
KATSONIS.	Alexandria Submarine Sanctuary will be in force 0300 to 0600 and 1200 to 1600/23 for KATSONIS leaving and returning. Exercise Sanctuary will be in force 0600 to 1200/23 area (R.A. Alexandria, 1406/21 to Med. Fleet, Force I.)
Sardinia patrol.	Your 0045 A/19. Request I may be informed why area South of Sardinia is considered profitable. (Capt.S.I., 1607C/21 to Capt.S.S)
Malta Air Raid.	C.S.R. Malta up to 1600 hours 21.5.41 times G.M.T. 21/5. Morning recco by JU.88 at 20,000 feet followed later by 10 to 15 ME.109's which bombed Luqa. R.A.F. damage. 1500 hours. 3 formations enemy fighters patrolled off west of Island for one and a half hours. Possibly screen for Convoy reported by Glenn Martin. Following naval information of 3 small MVS and 1 escort vessel Ionian Sea, 5 Blenheims 139 Squadrons despatched to attack but failed to locate. (H.Q. Malta, 1615/21)
ABA (bombed 17/5)	Essential repairs to ABA should be completed 1800/22. Minor repairs probable date of completion 26/5. At 24 hours for steam. My 1659/19 refers. (S.T.O. Haifa, 1757/21 to D. of S.T.)
FORESIGHT.	You have been reported by A/C. Take precautions to conceal your future movements. (V.A. Malta, 1810/21 to FORESIGHT)
Submarines.	Restrictions on crossing 200 fathom line have been removed vide my 1501/1/1 not to Capt. S.S. Request you will inform all submarines operating in Mediterranean accordingly. (Capt.S.1., 1831C/21 to Capt. S.S.)

/Italian .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

Italian tankers. — Reliably reported two more Italian tankers due to pass to Aegean within next 24 hours. (S.O.I Istanbul, 1844/21, to C. in C. Med.)

Suez Canal mines. — Situation 1930 May 21st. (? R.A.F.) G'L plot of Suez indicates possibility that mines were laid South Eastward from Newport rock Channel Suez Bay. Also suspect mines off Port Said. Neither interfere with navigation. No mines exploded today. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1931C/21 to Admty.etc.)

5th D.F. — 5th D.F. leaves Malta dusk to-night 21/5 north of Hurd Bank thence to eastward. (V.A. Malta, 1931B/21 to UPHOLDER)

Greek Fleet, Finance. — Your 2018/7 and 1554/C/20 and my 2042/20. Financial arrangements. (Hd. of F. 2027B/21 to C. in C. Med.)

URGE S/M's — URGE is returning to Malta from Westward, E.T.A. Malta 0600/22. S/M's are not to be attacked to-night 21/22nd. (Cdr. S.1, 2249B/21 to OLYMPUS, UNION.)

PATRIA. Materials. — Your 1912C/16. No objections to use of materials from PATRIA as you suggest in view of remote prospects of salvage. (D. of S.T. 2355B/21 to C. in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete.

Reported Landings.

Searchlight on bay west of Candia and believe landings have started.
(Heraklion 0130/21 to HIGHLANDER)
Following received on 5000 kcs. ALEXANDRIA W/T from Heraklion. Four ships landing troops in Bay west of Candia. (More W/T 0200/21 to Whitehall W/T)

Situation report.

Crete 20/5 Suda Area. Further air borne attack commenced 1630. Approx. 3,000 men dropped. 1200 not accounted for at 1830.
Situation reported in hand at 2100.
Fighting continuing at Maleme and Canea.
Method of attack Stukas and M.Es followed by gliders and parachutes.
Heraklion area. Attacks commenced 1730
Parachutists landed in Candia and on Heraklion aerodrome. Troop carrying aircraft landed east of aerodrome at 2000.
Boats carrying troops reported off Candia by coast watchers. Our light forces closing in there. Believed that parachute landings were made at Retimo, starting about 1730.
Prisoners indicate continuation of attack on 21/5 when seaborne landing west of Heraklion appears also intended.
(C. in C.M.E., 0250/21 to W.O)

C.S.15

Your 1920C/20. All quiet to seaward of Candia. Force C and CALCUTTA disbanded.
(C.S.15 0705C/21 to C. in C. Med.)

R.A.(D) Report.

Night report blank. Air activity from dawn with considerable dive bombing by JU 87's. DIDO has already expended 22% of 5.25 ammunition. (R.A.(D) M. 0735C/21 to C. in C. Med.)

/Heraklion .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd.)

Heraklion attack. Things developing south flank, should welcome return of warships. (Heraklion, 0813/21, to Alexandria W/T)
My 0813 . South flank 2 miles S/E Candia, anticipate fresh parachute troops. (Heraklion, 0827/21 to Alexandria)

Situation. 0900/21. A night of alarms of sea borne landings in which the fear was father to thought, and the presence of our own naval forces forgotten. Retimo patrol reported all quiet. Only small air activities successful Canea, Maleme, so far today. Situation Heraklion obscure. But consider enemy may be receiving some success in that area. Land line communications temporarily interrupted in successful area. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0902C/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Force C. A/C and E/B Attacks. Destroyers less NUBIAN have 46% fuel remaining at 0800/21. Force C. was attacked by Torpedo A/C and E. Boats in Kaso Channel last night. No damage except to E.Boats. (C.S.15, 0922C/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Air Attacks on Destroyers. Am being pursued to sea by high level and determined JU 87 attacks. (R.A.(D) M., 0924C/21 to C. in C. Med.)
Following received from R.A.D. Med. Addressed C in C. Med. My P.C.S. at 1000, 034° 56' 022° 27' 200° 20 knots. (Nore W/T. 1010C/21 to Whitehall W/T)

German Units. Light German naval units 35.40 N. 23. 25 E. at 0850. (Suda Bay 0930/21)

Heraklion Reports. Heraklion appears to be continualling reporting our own ships. Request you will endeavour to control his report. (C. in C. Med. 0943/21 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay)

/Situation .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd.)

Situation. Report 1000/21. Further parachutists dropped Maleme W.S.W. from Canea. Heavy bombing across Canea-Suda Bay road. No news from Heraklion or Retimo. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1001C/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units. 17 vessels reported in 035° 52' N. 023° 55' E. course 195° at 1820. Three small ships reported at Retimo. (C. in C. Med., 1005C/21 to R.A.D. Med.)

More Parachutists. Following has been read:- More troops dropped 0950. Heavy bombing. Request instructions if any. (Malta W/T 1025/21)

Air Report. Operational Summary No.345 up to 1200 hours 21.5.41.
Crete. Further to my previous summary German troops landed on 20/5 in Canea, Maleme, Retimo and Hereklion areas by glider and parachute, landing being preceded by intensive dive-bombing and machine gunning attacks all areas. Of 3000 troops in New Zealand uniforms landed Canea area, over half were killed. Hospital at Canea was captured in morning by enemy but regained by us. About 160 enemy aircraft bombed Heraklion for one hour during afternoon. After quiet night enemy air dive bombing and machine gun attacks Canea area recommenced early morning 21/5 followed by further landings of parachute troops at Maleme and Aliakanou, S.W. of Canea. Enemy troops reported concentrated between Aliakanou and Canea and immediately west Maleme and preparing landing ground near Aliakanou. Reconnaissance 20/5 reported enemy?using landing ground on Melos Island. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 1044/21)

/7th.C.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd.)

7th C.S.	Following received, addressed R.A.D. Med. From F.O. 7th C.S. my P.C.S. o35° 56' N. 022° 00' E. 030° 15 knots. (Nore W/T. 1045/21 to Whitehall W/T.)
AJAX damaged.	Following received from R.A.D. Med. Addressed C in C. Med. Attacks continue. AJAX reduced to 25 knots. Both port shafts distorted. (Nore W/T, 1102C/21 to Whitehall W/T.)
7th C.S.	My course is 140° (C.S.7 1115/21 to R.A.(D) Med.)
Force E. KANDAHAR. KINGSTON. JUNO.	Force E proceed to join F.O.C. 15th C.S. at R/V. arranged by F.O.C. 15th C.S. On relief by force E. KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, JUNO return to Alexandria as fast as fuel will allow. Capt. (D) 14 reports P.C.S. at 1300/21. (C. in C. Med. 1215C/21 to F.O.C. 15th C.S., Capt. D.14.) Cancel my 1215C/21. Force E. return to harbour with all despatch. (C. in C. Med. 1600C/21 to D.14)
JUNO sunk.	JUNO sunk by bombs in 034° 35' N. 026° 34' E. (F.O.15 C.S., 1255/21 to C. in C.Med)
Enemy War Ships	2 Cruisers 3 Destroyers P.C. and S. of enemy are 035° 38' 012° 22' 270° 22'. All torpedoes expended returning to harbour E.T.A. 0600/22. (URGE 1305B/21 to N.O.I.C. Malta)
Force C. bombed.	Force C has been continuously and heavily bombed since 0950. No serious damage so far except as reported in my 1255 (sinking of JUNO) CARLISLE joining (F.O.15 C.S., 1350C/21 to C. in C. Med.)

/14th D.F. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd.)

14th D.F. — My P.C. and S. at 1400, 031° 48' N. 029° 03' E. 330° 21 knots. Oil fuel remaining noon: JERVIS 299 tons, ILEX 275 tons, NIZAM 300 tons. (Capt.D.14, 1401C/21 to C.S.15)

E Boats KOS 21 and SYVERN attacked. — Your 0943/21. My 0901/21. Have been cut off from Military H.Q. and Robertson by telephone breakdowns now repaired. Communication Heraklion poor and Military situation obscure. Continual definite information from M.T. that E Boats were operating off Cape Spada and in Kissamo Bay last night. KOS 21 and SYVERN heavily attacked 1315/21 1330/21 1 Naval Armament dump hit and exploded. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1415/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Destroyers. — Destroyers of Force D should be exchanged with Destroyers of Force A (1) which are full of fuel. (C. in C. Med. 1551C/21 to F.O.C. 7 C.S.)

Situation. — My 2340/20. Military situation in Crete is obscure and no further details of position in Heraklion area. Captured operation orders show Suda Bay as main objective for first (? attack) This certainly failed and situation was in hand at dark. Little activity towards area during the night but heavy bombing of Canea - Suda Bay road this morning with parachutists dropped Maleme and W. S.W. from Canea.
(2) Report of seaborne landing near Candia not confirmed and consider no enemy surface force yet employed. Enemy aircraft using Melos as landing ground.

/JUNO .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete.

Situation (contd.) JUNO. (3) C.S.15 was off Candia at daylight with force C. now retired South of Kaso. JUNO sunk by bombing in position 034° 35' N. 026° 34' E. This force was attacked by E boats and torpedo bombing A/c in Kaso Strait during the night but no damage except to E boat (s).

AJAX. (4) R.A.(D) Med. was off Retimo at daylight with force D. and has been heavily dive bombed since now proceeding South (? Westward) from Kithera Channel. AJAX reduced to 25 knots with both port shafts distorted.

(5) Force A (I) now closing S.W. of Kithera Channel. Capt.(D) 14 and 2 destroyers bombarded Scarpanto 21, now relieving destroyers of Force C. who are short of fuel. (C. in C. Med. 1601C/21 to Admty.)

Forces C and D. Force C and D should enter the Aegean as soon as possible. (C. in C. Med. 1613C/21 to R.A.(D) Med. F.O.C. 15 C.S.)

U/Boat. CACHALOT sighted U Boat submerged in 0320 35' 025° 27' at 1053 C/21. (Capt.S.1 1617C/21 to TETRARCH)

Heraklion. Town partly occupied by enemy who have mounted machine gun on mole. (S.N.O. Heraklion, 1620/21 to N.O.I.C. Suda)

Enemy Naval Forces. Estimate approx. positions at 1600 (corrupt group) of enemy forces reported 21/5
(a) 13 ships 5 miles N.W. of Polykandio.
(b) 15 ships with 3 T B D 037° N. 024° 10' E. course 190°.
(c) 9 ships escorted by T B D 036° N. 024° 20' E.
(d) Convoy escorted by 2 Destroyers 037° N. 023° 55' E.
(e) 20 fishing vessels escorted by A/C 036° 10' N. 024° 00' E.
(C.O.S. Alexandria, 1653C/21 to Med.Fleet)

/Force B. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd.)

Force B.	Details of Force B. GLOUCESTER, FIJI and two destroyers if available to move up towards Aegean. (C. in C. Med. 1657C/21 to F.O.C. 7 C.S.)
D.10 to R.V. A.1.	Sail when ready with VOYAGER, VENDETTA at 15 knots to R/V with Force 'A.1'. West of Crete A.M./23 as ordered by C.S.7 (C. in C. Med. 1701C/21 to Capt.D.10)
Enemy Convoy.	Following from Most Secret Source (Begins) Convoy 036° 10' N. 024° 10' E. at 1300 (Ends)
Canea P/C Landing.	Pilotage Heraklion reports town partly occupied by enemy who have mounted machine guns on the Mole. Further parachute landing West of Canea at 1615/21. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1704/21 to C.in C. Med.)
A/C Recco.	Special aircraft R/C is leaving now for Aegean and will report on 6540 Kc's. (C. in C. Med. 1724C/21 to R.A. 7th C.S., R.A. 15 C.S. R.A.C. (D) Med.)
Force B.	My 1657C/21. Force B move towards Kithera Channel ready to carry out night sweep for convoys if ordered. (C. in C. Med. 1723C/21 to GLOUCESTER)
Communications.	Am in good touch with May Suda Bay and May 3 Heraklion, can act as link. (Alexandria W/T, 1819/21 to Suda Bay, Heraklion)
Heraklion Partly Occupied	Part of Harbour of Heraklion is in enemy hands. (C. in C. Med. 1820C/21 to Force C)

/Fuelling .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete.(contd.)

Fuelling Destroyers. You will have to (?leave) your destroyers tomorrow morning 22nd so that they can (corrupt group) on their fuel. I will send Oiler CHERRYLEAF 100 miles off Alexandria in case any are very short. (C. in C. Med. 1839C/21 to C.S.15)

D.14 On arrival fuel as quickly as possible and sail on completion with NIZAM, ILEX, HAVOCK. Proceed 20 knots towards Kaso Strait to join C.S.15 as ordered by him. Report time (?of) sailing. (C. in C. Med. 1901C/21 to D.14)

Enemy Units. 2 cruisers 3 destroyers were sighted in 0360 31' N. 011° 55' E. course 350° 15 knots at 1547B/21. Convoy of 7 merchant ships escorted by 4 destroyers were in 036° 26' N 012° 00' E course 280° 10 knots at 1530B/21. Doubt exist as to the course mentioned above. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1936/21 to FORESIGHT)

Spilia Landing Report. Following from most secret source. Landing from sea and air imminent Spilia. (F.O.C. 7 C.S. 1945/21 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay)

7th C.S. Unless otherwise ordered shall be in 035° 14' N 022° 45' E at 0550/22 and thereafter on MLA 280° 10 knots. until 1000/22 (F.O.C. 7th C.S. 1957C/21 to Med Fleet.)

Enemy Convoys. Enemy Convoys of 17 Ships was 20 miles north of Canea Bay at 1820C steering south. Other group small enemy vessels are south of Milo steering for Crete. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 2001C/21 to Med.Fleet)

/5th D.F. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd.)

5th D.F.	Your 1653. Sailed 5th D.F. at 2130 Proceeding 28 knots through 035° 51' (?N) 015° 15' E. direct to R/V. E.T.A. R/V 1100. All times zone - 3. (V.A. Malta 2045B/21 to C. in C. Med.)
JAGUAR. DEFENDER.	After embarking ammunition detailed in my 1900/21 JAGUAR and DEFENDER are to sail at 1000/22 to R/V with Force A (1) to westward of Crete at 0800/23 as ordered by C.S.7. (C. in C. Med. 22090/21 to JAGUAR, DEFENDER)
U/Boat.	U. Boat reported in 032° 34' 028° 56' at 17300/21. (Capt.S.1, 22110/21 to RORQUAL)
Coast Watch.	Watch your sea coast tonight. (Suda Bay 2215/21 to Heraklion)
Orders to Force C. Force B.	My 1843C/21 CS15 1836C/21 not to GLOUCESTER. Force C not expected to arrive off Heraklion until 0400. Force B proceed with all despatch to Heraklion keeping clear of Force D. and patrol off Heraklion until 0330 then sweep to northward until north of 036° 00' N (?) then in accordance with my 1843C/21 para B. Part of Heraklion Town and Harbour believed to be in hands of enemy. (C. in C. Med. 2255C/21 to GLOUCESTER)
Enemy Light Craft.	Following has been read: Enemy light craft appear to be in vicinity am investigating. (M.T.B. 21, 2256/21 to Suda Bay (?))
Maleme held by enemy.	Enemy hold Maleme Aerodrome and area west, elsewhere in this sector coast line in our hands, F.A.A. R.A.F. will bomb Maleme 2400-0200, own troops fire green verey light. (C. in C. Med. 2316/21 to Med.Fleet)

/Convoy .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete.(contd.)

Convoy Engaged by R.A.D.

Following has been read: Am engaging Convoy in position 100 36°N. 24° E. 12. (R.A.(D) M. 2350/21 to Malta W/T)

Situation report No.33.

C. in C. Med 2351C/21 - see Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21. 5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TURKIA (Greek) sunk.	S.S. TURKIA, 1911 tons, with cargo of explosives and general from America, burnt out and sunk in Gulf of Suez a.m./21. Cause of fire not known. (D.O.R., 22/5.)
Zanzibar, bunkers.	My 0956/20. Number of ships at Zanzibar for bunkers at any time is not to exceed 4. (C. in C. E.I., 0724Z/21, to D.S.T.O. Mombasa.)
Greek Ships Bushire.	Captain of Greek Ships now at Bushire are asking for instructions urgently as facilities for unloading there are quite inadequate. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1200Z/21, to C. in C. E.I.) S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1200/21 passed to you for instructions with reference to your 1457/15 and 2127/14 (both to C. in C.E.I. only). (C. in C. E.I., 1628Z/21, to Admty.)
CORNWALL SHROPSHIRE CANBERRA.	Your 1047/20. Intend CORNWALL shall escort one of these convoys and if ready in time SHROPSHIRE the other. If SHROPSHIRE is not ready, CANBERRA must be used instead, which will leave no cruiser in Seychelles area for a time. (corrupt) dates of sailing of these convoys from Durban and completion of SHROPSHIRE are not yet known to me. (C. in C. E.I., 1224Z/21, to Admty.)
CAVARNA.	Extract from A Fairmiss Telegram from Samsun. Roumanian S.S. CAVARNA arrived from Braila 20/5. Cargo 150 tons of German munitions of war for Persia 830 tons machinery. (Consul, Samsun, T.H.I. 1230/21.)
Raider.	My 0632/17. Further details. (C. in C. E.I., 1346Z/21.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Enemy Ships Transferred Mexico.

Reported that Axis ships taken over by Mexican Govt., have been renamed as follows:-

Italian.	AMERICANO	renamed	TUXPAN.
"	FEDE	"	POZA RICA
"	GENOANO	"	FAJA DE ORO.
"	GIORGIO PASSIO	"	PANUCO.
"	LUCIFERO	"	POTRERO DEL LLANO.
"	MARINA O.	"	TABASCO.
"	STELVIO	"	EBANO.
"	TUSCANIA	"	MINA TITLAN
"	VIGOR	"	AMATLAN.
German	HAMELN	"	CAXACA.
"	ORINOCO	"	PUEBLA.

(D.S. 624, 21/5.)

SHEHERAZADE. (French.)

Have intercepted SHEHERAZADE.

(DIOMEDE, 0701Z/21, to C. in C.A.W.I)
French ship SHEHERAZADE intercepted by DIOMEDE 800 miles east Bermuda at 0700z/21.
(C. in C. A.W.I 09120/21, to Admty.)
Request instructions action to be taken as regards French Ships brought into British Ports. Should Ships be treated as Prizes and Crews as Prisoners of War? In order to avoid risk of Sabotage intend in any case to remove those Members of Crew of SHEHEREZADE who do not volunteer to join Free French. Ship is due Bermuda 24/5.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 10010/21, to Admty.)

/ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ship's Attacked.

HARPAGUS NORMAN MONARCH (torpedoed 20/5)	Have picked up survivors of HARPAGUS and NORMAN MONARCH. Rejoining BURWELL with Convoy of 17 ships my position is 058° 52' 039° 10'. (BURNHAM, 0234Z/21, to S.O. Escort Group 12.)
ELUSA.	Torpedoed position 059° 55' N., 038° 39' W., survivors picked up. (BURNHAM, 0412Z/21, to Admty etc.) Position amended, see 0546/21. BURNHAM taking off survivors from ELUSA on fire in 058° 53' N., 039° 45' W. Prospect of salvage good. Reached vicinity of wreck one hour after explosion. Searched without result. Rejoining convoy 16 ships bearing 359° 10 miles course 44°,9 knots. (S.O. 12th Escort Group, 0511Z/21, to C. in C. W.A.) My 0412Z/21 amend position to read 059° 00' N., 038° 05' West (could be 23' or 53' W.) (BURNHAM, 0546Z/21.)
STARCROSS (torpedoed 20/5)	Enemy report made at 2340B/20 was of hydrophone contact. BOADICEA was unable to confirm. Search lasting 6 hours. BOADICEA has gained convoy. Intend returning to Clyde as both evaporators are defective and unable to maintain minimum supply feed water. Have sufficient for 36 hours. Master, all officers and ships company STARCROSS 40 in number on board and all well. 54° 25' 12° 25'. Weather. (ST. FRANCIS, 1415B/21, to C. in C.W.A.)
COCKAPONSET BRITISH SECURITY. (H.X.126.)	Following from ARABIS. HONTESTROOM picked up 12 survivors from COCKAPONSET in 057° 20' N., 041° 52' W., approx. BRITISH SECURITY in the vicinity on fire but apparently seaworthy. Continuing to search for survivors. Unable to contact C. in C. W.A. Time of origin 0800. (Ends.). (S.O. Escort Group 12, 1501Z/21, to C. in C. W.A.)

/COCKAPONSET.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Navy Yard requires four weeks to complete essential defects. I have approved. (Ends) 1707/20. (B.A.R.M. Washington, 0843/21, to Admty.)

Martinique Activity. St. Lucia reports one aircraft carrier and one other warship sighted six miles off Castries proceeding north. Aircraft seen to leave deck of carrier. Other reports indicate unprecedented air activity at Martinique. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1721Q/21, to CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN. Report incorrect. See 1033Q/27.

Suspicious Schooner. Three masted fishing schooner which appeared to have excessive speed, approx., 10 knots on engine, reported by master of Polish ZAGPOBA position 45.10 N 44.50 W at 0800Z/3. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1834Z/21.)

St. John's N.F. A.M. 1717B/20.. Request information whether the following ships could be berthed simultaneously if it is decided to use this port:- (V.C.N.S., 1840B/21, to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.)

U.S.Coastguard Cutters. To all ships (begins) United States Coastguard cutters NORTHLAND and MODOC at 1900 GCT 56.20 N., 47.30 W., proceeding to rescue of convoy survivors. Request information nearby ships. (signed)NORTHLAND (ends). (Valentia Radio, 1907/21, to Admty.)

A/S Convoy Escorts. Reply to Admty. 0016B/20, number of corvettes available and dates. Policy and control. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2108Z/21 to Admty.) See Operations Volume..

/B.H.X.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

B.H.X. Convoys, bunkers.

Your 1712Q/19. Arrangements made by Ministry of Shipping for vessels of 9 knots and over to bunker in a Brazilian or Caribbean port for passage to U.K. via Bermuda in BHX Convoy. Vessels of under 9 knots to bunker at a Brazilian or Caribbean port and if necessary at Sydney. (D.T.D. 2232B/21 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

BEARN
JEANNE D'ARC
EMILE BERTIN

Air R/C a.m./21 May showed BEARN at Martinique and JEANNE D'ARC at Guadaloupe. EMILE BERTIN not located.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2242Q/21, to CARADOC, DIOMEDE.)

BRITANNIC.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1935Z/15. Admiralty have no objection to 800 passengers for New York remaining on board.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2300B/21 to R.A.3.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.5.1941.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

	COCKAPONSET, British, 5996 tons, apparently sunk on 20/5. Bound from Houston for Holyhead and Cardiff with general cargo. (D.S. 626, 23/5)
ELUSA CROWN ARUM NORTHERN MONARCH (Torpedoed 20/5)	BURNHAM with VERBENA searching for U-Boat sighted in the vicinity of wreck ELUSA position 058° 55' N., 039° 30' W. BURNHAM has on board survivors of ELUSA 47, CROWN ARUM 17, NORTHERN MONARCH, 14. (12th Escort Group, 1606Z/21 to ARABIS)
H.X. 126 (Attacked 20/5)	Following report of survivors of H.X. 126 received. NORMAN MONARCH, HARPAGUS and ELUSA rescued by BURNHAM. No report survivors from DARLINGTON COURT and BRITISH SECURITY torpedoed in 57° 28' N. 41° 07' W., at 1500B/20 or ROTHERMERE 55° 53' N., 42° 30' W at 1758/20 position doubtful, JOHN P. PEDERSEN no position given, or SAN FELIX 57° 32' N., 40° 21' W at 1648/20. Any ships rescuing survivors are to report unless in company with re-formed convoy when first ship detached should signal details. ARABIS, NORTHERN WAVE, NORTHERN GEM and HONTESTROOM continue search until satisfied that all survivors in this area have been rescued. (C. in C. W.A., 1639B/21 to ARABIS, HELIOTROPE, MALLOW, BURNHAM, NORTHERN WAVE BURWELL, NORTHERN GEM, HONTESTROOM)
CITY OF SHANGHAI. (Torpedoed 10/5)	My 1404/20. Ship was attacked by two submarines and after being torpedoed was eventually sunk by gunfire from close range. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2231Z/21 to R.A.S.A.D.)
NICOYA	Repeated Submarine Attack 59.16 N., 32.29 W., NICOYA sighted submarine on surface 2200G.M.T. (? 2259/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.5.1941.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0128 — Your 0041B/21 (N.T. in W.R.) 059° 46' N., 010° 45' W., 8 miles to N. E. of Convoy. Submarine. No contact. (LINCOLN, 0128B/21 to C. in C. W.A.)

1000 — Submarine reported submerging 2-1/2 miles off Skigerste and near Brag Rock, Lewis, proceeding in Northerly direction about 1000/21 seen by several civilians. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1048B/21 to A.C.O.S.)

0309 — A/C reports possible U/B in 58° 50' N., 9° 30' W., at 0309/21. (D.D.I.C. 1049B/21 to WANDERER, INGLEFIELD)

0910 — By D/F at 0910/21. G.M.T. position of German U-Boat was approx. 58° 00' N., - 59° 00' N., 35° 00' W - 37° 00' W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1216B/21 to BURNHAM, etc.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1435B/21)

1800/20 — S/M reported 2 miles N.E. of North Cape 0001/21 by SS BOLLSTA. (M.O.I.C. Iceland 1450/21 to C.S.I. SUFFOLK, ASCANIA, CHESHIRE)
My 1450/21. Further information shows submarine was sighted by 1 man only. Sighted at ? 1800/20 not 0001/21. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1603/21)

1344 — By D/F at 1344Z/21 position of German U/Boat 59° - 60° N. 32° - 34° W., Position is indication of area only. (D.D.I.C. 1643B/21)

1822 — Position of U-Boat by D/F fix at 1822Z/21 was 057° 50' 010° 40' West a good fix. (C. in C. W.A., 2215B/21 to WALKER)

MOST SECRET

21.5.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

By VERBENA

Have attacked enemy submarine in 058° 55' 039° 30'. (VERBENA 0903Z/21 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)
VERBENA sent back to stand by wreck of U/B engaged U-Boat on surface 058° 55' N at 0902 G.M.T. U-Boat dived at 0918' [illegible] BURNHAM detached from convoy to assist. Reference position of wreck from convoy 217° 28 miles. Weather report. (S.O. 12 Escort Group 0921Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
If contact is not regained after searching up wind do not leave vicinity of Green Cape unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Remain 48 hours. During four hours of darkness keep U-Boat down with star shells and steaming high speed using searchlight. Force U-Boat to exhaust batteries and surface diving daylight. Get this U-Boat without fail. (S.O. 12th Escort Group 1538Z/21 to BURNHAM)
VERBENAS 0903Z/21. Several attacks carried out on definite submarine contact Contact lost at 1430 not yet regained. VERBENA has now only one depth-charge left. Am continuing search. (BURNHAM 1544Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1510Z/21. Concentrate on getting U-Boat. Consider question of salvage after U-Boat is sunk or taken. U-Boat must still be near you with battery low. (S.O. Escort Group 12, 1744Z/21 to VERBENA)

By SS BERKEL
21/4.

Master BERKEL reports engaged submarine in position 053 38 N., 017 29 W. on April 21st. Considers submarine badly damaged by the stern although managed to submerge. Report follows by safe hands. (S.O. (I) Jamaica 1152R/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.5.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

D.S. NAUTILUS Sunk.	Dutch minelayer NAUTILUS was sunk at 0130 today as result of collision with SS MURRAYFIELD off the Humber. There were no casualties.
Watch for German Naval Units.	Aircraft R/C at 1939 today showed that the German battleship and cruiser have left Bergen. The merchant ships did not leave with them. Photographs at 1730 showed 3 destroyers and a catapult ship in Trondheim. Most of the coast was fog bound. F.O. 1st B.C.S's Force (HOOD, PRINCE OF WALES and 6 destroyers) (to be known as Battle Cruiser Force) and Force with C. in C. H.F. (KING GEORGE V, VICTORIOUS, GALATEA, AURORA, KENYA, HERMIONE and 7 destroyers) to be known as Battle Fleet, were ordered at 2207B tocover a possible break out of the enemy westward through the Denmark Straits, Iceland Faeroes passage or Faeroes Shetlands passage. The Battle Fleet will operate south of 62° N., and the Battle Cruiser Force north of 62° N. 18th C.S. (BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER and ARETHUSA) are to patrol the Iceland Faroes passage, west of the mine barrier, and SUFFOLK is to join F.O.I.C.S. in NORFOLK on Denmark Strait.patrol. REPULSE is to proceed from the Clyde to Scapa. Air R/C is to be maintained in the Iceland Faeroes Channel, Denmark Straits, Faroes Shetlands Channel and Coast of Norway.
U.S. C.G. Cutters.	American Coastguard Cutters FISHGUARD, CULVER, BANFF and HARTLAND arrived at Greenock today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.5.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

In order to economise personnel and stores it is proposed to close down the Naval Air Section at Sullom Voe and the Naval Air Station, Stornoway.

Two Hudsons of Coastal Command attacked the enemy naval units at Bergen in the early hours of this morning. Results were not observed. Bad weather caused other Hudsons to return without attacking.

Owing to bad weather all operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled.

Blenheims today searched for shipping off the Frisian Islands and Danish coast north of Sylt. One small merchant vessel is thought to have been damaged off Borkum.

Enemy Air Operations

SS EMPIRE PROGRESS was bombed and damaged in Totland Bay today.

Mining

Operation B.S. 61.

PLOVER today laid mines in the East Coast Barrier.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

It is reported that German E-boats have arrived at Oran and are possibly painted with French colours.

D/F bearing at 1937Z today indicated an enemy surface ship in the area between 42° - 43° N. 11° - 13° W., probably homeward bound.

South Atlantic.

A French aircraft flew over Bathurst and Cape St. Mary docks today, and was engaged by light machine gun fire.

Mediterranean.

Minesweeping.	The Admiralty today replied to C. in C. Med's. protest of 19/5 against possible dipletion of his minesweeping forces to reinforce East Indies.
Reinforcements.	FARNDALE, AVON VALE, ERIDGE and HEYTHROP are to join the Mediterranean Fleet when sufficiently worked up.
Operation "Splice".	25 Hurricanes arrived in Egypt today, escorted by 3 Wellingtons, making a total of 42 Hurricanes, escorted by 2 Beaufighters and 3 Wellingtons arrived in Egypt to date in this operation.
French Fleet at Alexandria.	A message regarding these ships was sent by Admiralty to C. in C. Med. today.
Air Attack on Convoy.	Following Maryland R/C 4 Blenheims were sent to attack a convoy. Only one merchant ship was found and was attacked at 1523 G.M.T. 15 miles 20° Pantellaria, whilst steering south. The vessel received 8 hits 4 of which bounced off the deck, and was left stopped, damage unknown. Later R/C reported a derelict ship, presumably identical with the above.
Benghazi.	2 Wellingtons attacked the harbour at Benghazi today.

MOST SECRET

22.5.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Attack on Crete.

Naval Operations. Convoys.

At 0405 R.A. (D) Med. reported that he engaged an enemy convoy at 2350 in position 100° 36 N., 24° E., 12 miles (about 40 miles N.E. of Cape Spadá) and sank one destroyer, 2 merchant ships and a number of caiques, and dispersed the remainder. In view of serious shortage of A.A. Ammunition he proceeded with Force D to Alexandria.

At 1000 today C.S. 15 attacked another convoy, of about 30 small ships in 36° 30' N., 24° 20' E. The remains of the convoys turned north and C.S. 15 was unable to complete its destruction on account of the weight of air attack.

A convoy consisting of three Italian destroyers and numerous other craft, probably caiques were reported to have left Milo at 1622 towards Crete. C. in C Med. ordered our light forces to destroy the convoy if it appeared within striking distance.

Reliable information suggests that Italian forces are preparing to land in Sitia Bay from Rhodes on 24/5.

The dispositions of our light forces prevented any seaborne landings from taking place last night at Suda Bay, Retimo and Candia areas.

Our ships bombarded the enemy positions at Maleme last night and 10 Blenheims bombed the same area at dawn today.

/ORION.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.5.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Attack on Crete

Naval Operations. -Contd.

ORION was slightly damaged and FIJI was damaged during the night.

GLOUCESTER
FIJI, GREYHOUND
Sunk
NAIAD
CARLISLE
WARSPITE
VALIANT
Damaged.

The following casualties from air attack occurred today:-
GLOUCESTER (1730) and FIJI (after 1920) were sunk, the former in Kithera Channel and the latter after withdrawing owing to acute shortage of A.A. ammunition. It is believed that both ships had expended their entire outfit when they were sunk. NAIAD has only 2 turrets in action and is leaking. GREYHOUNDwas reported sunk at 1411C. WARSPITE was hit and has her starboard 6 inch and 4 inch guns out of action and one boiler room out of action (probably repairable) VALIANT was hit this afternoon, but her armament and engines are believed to be intact. CARLISLE was hit but not seriously damaged PERTH had her 6 inch fire control put out of action.

ABDIEL and RORQUAL both laid mines successfully (for positions see C. in C., Med. 1810/22)

Naval Dispositions

Dispositions ordered for 22nd/23rd by C. in C. Med. were as follows:-
Force A. to continue to cover the west of Crete, detaching destroyers to fuel on relief.
New Force D. to be formed of 5th D.F. from Malta, to enter Aegean from westward 2100/22, to patrol Kissamo-Malene-Suda Bay area during tonight.
Force E. Capt. (D) 14, ORION, AJAX, Capt. (D) 2, NIZAM, HAVOCK to enter Aegean by Kaso Strait 2100/22, to patrol Heraklion area tonight.

/If there ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.5.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Attack on Crete

Naval dispositions -Contd.

If there were no further developments during the night Forces D and E were to retire on Force A through Anti Kithera Channel, leaving patrol at (? 1200 or 0100) /23.
Remaining ships to return to Alexandria to fuel and prepare for further service.
GLENROY escorted by COVENTRY, AUKLAND and FLAMINGO left Alexandria p.m. today to land troops at Tymbaki during the night 23/24 May.

(C)

Suda Bay Area.

The enemy were strongly reinforced by airborne troops during the day at Maleme where it was estimated that 100 troop carrying aircraft landed and at 2107 it was reported that the situation had deteriorated. Many of the troop carriers were destroyed. The aerodrome is in enemy hands.

Retimo.

A few of the enemy are in position at Retimo.

Candia Area

At Heraklion the situation was reported to be well in hand. The enemy dropped supplies, including guns and ammunition, which were seized by our troops.

China

It is reported that all German and Italian ships in refuge in Japan are to be given covering Japanese nationality and used locally.

MOST SECRET

22.5.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Activity

South Atlantic

BRITISH GRENADIER was reported torpedoed at 1958 N. today in 6° 15' N., 12° 59' W.

It is reported that Dutch SS MARISA was torpedoed at 2135/16 in 6° 10' N., 18° 9' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

HERACLES.

Finnish HERACLES expected to sail from Gothenburg 22/5 for Buenos Aires routed as follows. Ship should not be molested. (D.O.D.H. 1253B/22)

FARNDALE, AVON VALE, ERIDGE, HEYTHROP for Mediterranean.

FARNDALE, AVON VALE, ERIDGE and HEYTHROP are to join the Mediterranean Fleet as soon as possible.
2. FARNDALE, AVON VALE and ERIDGE are required to sail as soon as FARNDALE has worked up sufficiently. HEYTHROP will proceed later.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange programme in conjunction with R.A.(D) H.F, informing Admiralty of arrangements proposed in due course. (1st S.L. 1548B/22)

PLYMOUTH. Priority of Repair Work.

Your 2357/19.
1. Approved for PARIS to be given Priority 111 (A.L. D.O.4463/41) but it is at your discretion to employ sufficient men to bring the ship into operation at an early date.
2. PRINCE CHARLES must be completed at Devonport. This ship is required now for service and if sent to Falmouth will take a long time to complete.
3. Trawlers can be taken forthwith for normal refits as follows. Trawlers requiring extensive damage repairs cannot be taken in these areas.
4. Trawler repair work in Dockyards must be continued at Priority 111 (A.L. D.O. 4463/41) We are very short of cruisers and your proposal would give them priority over KENT and TRINDIDAD. (Controller 1951B/22 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Air Sections at Sollum Voe and Stornoway to close.

My 1120/21. In order to economise personnel and stores it is proposed to close down Naval Air Section at Sollum Voe and Naval Air Station Stornoway. (D.N.A.D. 2102B/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Faroes Site ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Faroes. Site for Aerodrome.

Yesterday I visited a possible site at Sands 061° 50' N. 006° 48' W. in Island. Construction and transport difficulties would be great but not insuperable. In view of great importance of operating striking force and reconnaissance aircraft from Faroes request (vigorous?) hastening. action may be taken (A.C.D.S. 0932Z/22 to Adty.)

Movements.

REPULSE.

Cancel my 2353B/21. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide A/S screen for REPULSE. REPULSE is to proceed Scapa, when A/S screen is available, with all convenient despatch. (C. in C. H.F. 0103B/22 to REPULSE)

LEGION, SAGUENAY, and ASSINIBOINE will be required to escort REPULSE from Clyde to Scapa. (C. in C. W.A. 0151/22)

My 0151B/22. Comply with C. in C. H.F. 0103B/22. (C. in C. W.A. 0309B/22 to F.O.I.C Greenock.)

Sailed REPULSE, LEGION, ASSINIBOINE, SAGUENAY in accordance with my 0555B/22 arrive 277° Dunnet Head 30 miles at 0930/23. Code word FAITH. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1603B/22)

U.S.A. Coastguard Cutters.

Arrived American C.G. Cutters FISHGUARD, CULVER, BANFF and HARTLAND. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1950B/22.

/MOOLTAN. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd.)

MOOLTAN. My 1540B/13. Southend 22/5 departure MOOLTAN at 1300 escorted by MENDIP and COTTESMORE. S.of A. 16½ knots. E.T.A. 2200B/24th (C. in C. Nore. 2116B/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Watch for Enemy Warships at Bergen. Scapa departure R.A.I.B.S. in HOOD with PRINCE OF WALES, ICARUS, ANTELOPE, ACHATES, ANTHONY, ELECTRA, ECHO. (A.C.O.S. 0050/22)

Arrived SUFFOLK 0130. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0915/22.)

A.C.O.S. 2301B/21. P. 31 is proceeding to patrol 25 miles west of Statlandet. (Capt. S.9. 0933B/22 to MINERVE)

Unless otherwise ordered ARETHUSA relieves NORFOLK for fuelling 2000B/26 off Isafiord. (F.O.C.1st C.A. 0934B/22 to ARETHUSA)

Remain at Hvalfiord. (C. in C.H.F. 0944B/22 to SUFFOLK)

Arrival BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1017/22)

Until otherwise ordered by C. in C.H.F. ARETHUSA will act as a private ship. (A.C.O.S. 1025Z/22 to C. in C.H.F.)

/Proceed to .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Watch for Enemy Warships at Bergen. (contd.)

Proceed to join C.S. One. (C. in C.H.F. 2014/22 to SUFFOLK)

ARETHUSA is to proceed to take up N.P. line TR.38. MANCHESTER on arrival in area is to take BIRMINGHAM, ARETHUSA under his orders and dispose ships to patrol (Iceland)? Faroes passage westward of mine barrier.
(C. in C. H.F. 2042B/22)
C. in C. H.F's 2042/22. Intend to sail 0020B/23 and make good 18 knots.
(ARETHUSA 2130Z/22)
In view of present situation regret Capt (D) 6 and his destroyers will not be available for H X 127.
Request you will order them to proceed to Scapa at best speed after leaving RODNEY.
(C. in C.H.F. 2142B/22)
Sailes ARETHUSA (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2210Z/22)

F.O.C. 1st B.C.S's force is to be known as Battle Cruiser force and force with C. in C. H.F. as Battle Fleet.
Both forces are to cover possible break out westward through Denmark Straits, Iceland Faeroes passage, or Faeroes Shetlands passage.
Battle fleet will operate south of 062° N.
Battle cruiser force will operate north of 062° N.
If enemy battleships and cruisers are located in harbour or returning to Germany Battle Cruiser force is to proceed to Hvalfjord and Battle fleet to Scapa.
Failing such information F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. is to use his discretion as to when to take destroyers in to Hvalfjord to fuel.
(C. in C.H.F. 2207B/22)

/SUFFOLK .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

SUFFOLK sailed. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2212Z/22)

BIRMINGHAM and MANCHESTER sailed 2200. S. of A. 21 knots. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 2213B/22)

Scapa departures C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, VICTORIOUS, GALATEA, AURORA, KENYA, HERMIONE. INGLEFIELD, INTREPID, ACTIVE, PUNJAVI, NESTOR, WINDSOR, LANCE. (A.C.O.S. 2307/22)

CONQUEROR. Intend CONQUEROR to sail from Falmouth so as to arrive Plymouth 1500/23 and leave Plymouth so as to arrive Portland 1600/24. (C. in C. Plymouth 1208/22)
Intend to sail for Plymouth CONQUEROR 1030/23. E.T.A. 1500. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2208/22)

IRIS (cable laying from Benbecula) Admiralty's 0036B/21. Report how long this operation will take and when IRIS will commence laying. (C. in C. W.A. 1902B/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

British Air Activity.

Heligoland attacked. Day 19 May. Night 19/20 May, Day 20 May, and night 20/21 May. All operations cancelled owing to unfavourable weather.
Day 21 May. This afternoon the naval base of Heligoland was subjected to a surprise attack. Details. (H.Q.B.C. 0240/22)

/Patrols .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd.)

Patrols.

Patrol UNST in operation until 0800.
(C. in C. Rosyth D552/22)
Sunderland A/C will fly following cross over patrol from about 1045 until 1600 today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0734/22)

My 2302/21. All R/C's encountered very low visibility and saw nothing. Meteorological flights over Norwegian coast are being maintained and further R/C's will be flown when visibility improves.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1054/22)

My 0734/22. Aircraft returning owing to fog. (C. in C. Rosyth 1156/22)

Blenheim A/C are carrying out meteorological R/C on Norwegian coast between 60° N. and 62° N. from 1400 till 1700 today.
Patrol HORNLI now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1438/22)

Request Air R/C be maintained as follows:-
(a) Iceland, Faeroes, Channel.
(b) Denmark Straits (c) Faeroes, Shetlands, Channel. (d) Norwegian Coast.
(2) Object is to detect enemy battleship and enemy cruiser breaking out to westward.
(C. in C. H.F. 2043B/22 to Adty.)

Your 2043B/22. Air reconnaissances for 23/5 arranged as follows:-
(A) Iceland - Faeroes by A.O.C. in C. Coast Command.
(B) Denmark Strait by C. in C. Western Approaches.
(C) Faeroes - Shetland 18 Group.
(D) Norwegian Coast including PRU 18 Group.
Details follows. (C. in C. Rosyth 2338/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Air Attack .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.(contd.)

Air Attack on Enemy Warships at Bergen.

My 1824/21. Owing to low cloud base all aircraft were unable to locate target. (C. in C. Rosyth 0628/22)

Merchant Ship Fighter Unit.

Since M.S.F.U. Ship Detachments include only one pilot and hours of daylight may be 22 out of 24, a great strain will be thrown on the pilot who will be almost continually at readiness between 50° W. Long and U.K.
Consider that when Naval Catapult Ships are present with Convoy it might be feasable for M.S.F.U. pilot to be given certain hours of release under the orders of the Catapult Ship.
May this policy please be considered and Admiralty views solicited. When no Catapult Ship is present with Convoy it will be necessary for a lesser degree of readiness to be accepted for M.S.F.U. aircraft.
Request decision by signal.
H.Q. 9 Group 1230/22 to H.Q.F.C)

Hatston.

Admiralty 1120B/21. Request the additional aircraft be sent to Hatston when available. (C. in C. H.F. 1927B/22 to RANAS)

One Merchant Vessel attacked.

On 22/5 one C/A attacked a Merchant Vessel of about 1000 tons, just North East of Borkum. Vessel thought to have been damaged.
Night 22/23. All operations cancelled owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C. 2537/22)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

JOSEFINA THORDEN (Bombed 19/5)	BRIGAND towing JOSEFINA THORDEN stern first. Speed about 4 knots, course towards Faeroes ? Island. Request destination. (BRIGAND 0045/22 to A.C.O.S)
	Your 0045/22. Destination Thorshaven. (A.C.O.S. 0143B/22 to BRIGAND) BRIGAND and MARAUDER towing JOSEFINA THORDEN escorted by NORTHERN CHIEF arrived. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 2246B/22)
EMPIRE PROGRESS (British, 5249 Tons) bombed.	Bombed anchoring Totland Bay. (Niton Radio 1551/22)
MARMION (Bombed 9/4)	My 0110/21 and 1020/21. Cancel request for onward towage from Southend. Intend that KENIA should continue tow to Tilbury proceeding to Gravesend for the night. (F.O.I.C. Harwick 1802B/22)
TANAGER WARREN (Trawlers) attached. Bardsey Island Lighthouse damaged on 16/5	Following reports of attack by enemy aircraft received. Trawler TANAGER with bombs S.E. by E. Kish Lightship 5 miles at 0120/11 and 0120/15. Vessel undamaged. Trawler WARREN with bombs E.N.E. Kish Lightship 4 miles 0100/11 vessel undamaged. Bardsey Island lighthouse machine-gunned night 16/5. Light was damaged and lens perforated. Temporary repairs made. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2126B/22)
Convoys WN. Even and DAFFODIL.	Fighters have been despatched to assist convoys METRIC and DAFFODIL. (Rosyth W/T 2254/22)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

SN.64

My 1237/20. Operation S.N 64 postponed. (R.A.M.L. 0407B/22)
S.N.64 postponed. Return to Butt of Lewis area to complete survey. (R.A.M.L. 0902/22 to SCOTT)

My 2356B/21. Regret I cannot spare a destroyer but can make a cruiser available as soon as you are ready. (C. in C. H.F. 1112B/22 to R.A.M.)
Your 1112/22. Regret I have only one destroyer. Shall not have destroyer screen of my own until return of S D 4.
(R.A.M. 1228/B/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
Return to base on completion of present work. (R.A.M.L. 1403/22 to SCOTT.)

BS.61

Departure TEVIOT BANK and CATTISTOCK at 0525. (F.O. Humber 0531B/22)
Operation B.S.61. Completed. (TEVIOT BANK 1700B/22)

Faroes -
N. Rona
Minefield.
Conference.

C. in C. H.F. 1507/21. Concur.
(R.A.M. 0856B/22)
Cancel my 1507/21. Further signal will be made. (C. in C.H.F. 2007B/22 to R.A.M.)

SN. 66.
SN. 67A.
SN. 67B.
SN. 70

R.A.M. 1014B/21. Concur.
(C. in C. H.F. 1105B/22)

PW.9

P.W.(9) ready for sea.
Asdic operating with centre 090° one mile from Dunkirk C.W. Buoy. Report when ready. (C. in C. Nore 1114/22 to BEEHIVE)

BS.57.

Intend to sail at 2000 today to lay at 0247 tomorrow. (PLOVER 1200B/22)
BS.57 postponed 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Nore. 1820B/22)

/Minelaying .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd.)

Minelaying Programme.	A.M. 2152 B/20. D.D.O.D.(M) would like -to discuss the following points. (A.C.N.S. H. 1516B/22)
Aberdeen.	It is important to remove the obstacles in the Aberdeen channel so that dredging may proceed as soon as possible. If local resources are insufficient report what is required to expedite work. (A.C.N.S. T 1755B/22 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen)
MALCOLM.	SUNDERLAND will be sweeping ahead of you between 2130Z/22 and 0300Z/23. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1835/22 to MALCOLM.)
Thames Estuary.	One magnetic mine detonated at 1152/22/5 and one mine at 1156/22. Details. (Capt.M/S Sheerness 1935/22)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Milford Haven.

Request following be promulgated.
All vessels waiting outside Milford Haven for convoy or any other reason are to keep within an area bounded by lines joining the following positions:-
(A) 51° 40' 18" N. 05° 11' 06" W.
(B) 51° 39' 42" N. 05° 09' 48" W.
(C) 51° 38' 30" N. 05° 11' 21" W.
(D) 51° 39' 09" N. 05° 12' 36" W.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1051B/22 to Adty)
Admty. A.2. Message, (D.T.D. 2130B/22)

H.G. 61.

21 ships have arrived under Cdre.Avory R.N.R
2 neutral, 2 allied, rest British.
Cargoes. (D.S. 625, 22/5)

East Coast Convoys.

Admty. 1936B/14 2044/17 and C. in C. Rosyth 1129/18 concur with C. in C. Rosyth. Considered most important to arrange for East Coast shipping to be kept clear of area between Sheringham Buoy and Aldeburgh Buoy in dark hours. Suggest trial given to a medium convoy (F.N. and F.S.) of 7 7½ knot ships to supersede one of the F.N.(S) and F.S.(S) ordered in Admty. 1936B/14. If this is agreed, one convoy in every three would be a slow convoy (7 knot ships)
(C. in C. Nore 1624B/22 to Admty.)

WS.9A.

Proposed embarkation arrangements.
(D.S.T. 1841B/22 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland etc.)

BEN MY CREE.

Ready to leave Greenock with service personnel for Faeroes and Iceland.
C. in C. W.A. and A.C.O.S. requested to arrange A/A protection as necessary from Clyde and on return.
C. in C. H.F. requested to report on what date A/S escort can be provided from Faeroes to Iceland. (F.O.D.(H) 1956B/22 to C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F., A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

COMMANDER HORTON (Steam Trawler)	Approx. seven days overdue from Icelandic fishing grounds. (N.C.S.O. Number 1025B/22)
TRIBUNE.	Your 1637B/19. Owing to defects. (details) request permission to proceed on surface by day with T.B.R. after passing 025° W. at about sunset/23. (TRIBUNE 1100Z/22)
NAUTILUS (Minelayer) sunk.	H.N.M.S. NAUTILUS sank at 0130 today as the result of a collision with S.S. MURRAYFIELD. No casualties. Survivors landed at Grimsby. Position of wreck reported as 041° Humber L/V. 4 miles. (F.O. Humber 1140B/22)
Unknown Vessel.	S.O.S. de GKR at 1356 G.M.T. Signals failed. No details or bearings obtained. (Wick Radio 1501/22)
M.G.B.88	Sustained serious damage to hull on passage from Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1505B/22)
F.16.	F.16 has gone aground off Albert Harbour Greenock. Troops being disembarked owing to ship taking dangerous list. (P.S.T.O. West of Scotland 1529/22) F.16 afloat. Proceeding anchorage. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 2141/22)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATION.

North Atlantic.

E/Boats Oran.

My 2221/7 and 1938/10. Reported that German E boats have arrived Oran. Graded C.3. They may be painted in French colours. (N.I.D. 0022B/22 to S.O. Force H).

Operation "Splice".

My 2120/21 para 2. This Fulmar arrived. Missing Fulmar was leader of 5th flight possibly force-landed near Cape Bon. This indicates that three out of five Fulmars proved unserviceable. (S.O. Force H., 1013/22 to Admty).

W.S.8B. Operations "Rocket" "Tracer".

A.T. 0025B/22. As REPULSE is not now sailing as escort to ARGUS and Convoy W.S.8B., SHEFFIELD is to meet convoy and escort ARGUS to Gibraltar. EDINBURGHis to proceed to Gibraltar on completion of patrol and is to escort ARGUS and NEA HELLAS to U.K. as soon as transfer of aircraft is complete about 31/5. "ROCKET" is to be carried out as arranged by S.O. Force "H". "TRACER" is postponed. A.T. 1516B/21 iscancelled. RENOWN will not proceed to U.K. until further orders. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1020B/22 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. H.F., S.O. Force H., C.S.18).

FORESIGHT Force H.

FORESIGHT being shadowed. Force "H" steering east pending further developments. (S.O. Force H., 1046/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE

Notifying movements of PANDORA, IMPERIALIST, corvettes, NEA HELLAS, WRESTLER. You will proceed unescorted after passing position (e). Inform me if unable to comply with E.T.A. within 2 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/22 to CLYDE).

Corvettes.

Pass through 035° 35' N 015° 00' W thence Gibraltar. My 1210A/21. Para B Track of TRUANT is to be crossed during daylight hours. Estimated your position at 1500B/22 is 040° 10' N 018° 50' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1139A/22 to FLEUR DE LYS, CORECPSIS, SPIRIA.)

PANDORA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

PANDORA. — Sailed in accordance with my 1134A/19 and F.O.(S) 1844B/20.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1200A/22 to Admty).

S/M Positions. — My 1210A/21 para (D). Amend time to read 1130A/22.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1210A/22 to N.A. Stn).

ALGER (Portuguese detained). — Following for M.E.W. My ARFAR 314. Portuguese ALGER ref. my tel. 246 and Ambassador Lisbon 528 20/5, addressed F.O. Vessel returned from Genoa with 32 cases containing tractors and 57 cases of spare parts consigned by Portuguese Consul Genoa to Minister O Dellaguerra, Lisbon, tons. As no previous instructions have been received from you am holding vessel pending reply.
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 1540/22, to Admty).

DUNEDIN — Your 1716/20. Delay to DUNEDIN cannot be accepted. A.1. Boiler should be blanked off, and ship sailed for Freetown as soon as ready.
(D.O.D. (F) 1657B/22 to A.S., Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.

U/Boat Menace. — Remarks on U/B activity, and suggestions.
(V.C.N.S., 0030B/22 to C. in C. S.A.) See Lion Copy.

LIEUT. ST. LOUBERT BIE. — C. in C. S.A.'s 1225N/18. In view of large number of troops on board you should ascertain from Union Authorities whether they prefer LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT BIE to be taken into any other port than Simonstown.
(Head of M. 0126B/22 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Enemy Unit. — My 0117/22. Empire bearing indicate position of enemy unit within 150 miles of 10° N 25° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0613/22 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.).
My 0613/22. It is uncertain whether signal originated from a U/Boat or surface vessel. If the latter suggest this may have been a supply vessel for U.Boats and one or more U. Boats may be in the same vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1046B/22)(C. in C. S.A., 1711N/22 to NELSON, EAGLE, CATHAY).

D/F bearings.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Enemy Unit. (contd).

D/F bearings at 2115Z/21 indicate probable surface unit within 100 miles 009° N 025° W. Reliability 80%. More likely warship than merchant raider. Proceed towards this position.
(C. in C. S.A., 0631N/22 to NELSON, EAGLE).

CATHAY S.L.75

My 0631/22. Steer to pass East of Cape Verde Is. keeping out of sight of land.
(C. in C. SA., 0757N/22 to H.M.S. CATHAY pass to Commodore of Convoy S.L.75, NELSON, EAGLE, Admiralty).

MONTE TEIDE suspicious.

Request you ascertain if possible whether Spanish MONTE TEIDE at Buenos Aires carried any enemy personnel. British ship CITY OF VENICE reports that on May 1st in 11° 30' North 27° 31' West vessel was following her with obvious intention of ascertaining her zigzag courses.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1315N/22 to S.O.I Montivideo).

Ammunition Free French.

Para. 5 of my 2323/16. Instructions are being issued that ammunition is to be requisitioned and delivered to you for the use of the Free French.
(Head of M., 1634B/22 to C. in C. SA).

NELSON EAGLE, S.L.75.

Your 1046/22. Movements of S.L.75 NELSON and EAGLE were ordered on assumption that enemy unit might be warship. Propose convoy continues on route given in my 1617/22 unless other information makes this undesireable. Request information if warship definitely unlikely owing to known position of these. Position appears rather near Freetown and trade route for supply ship and weather in this area probably unsuitable for fuelling U boats. EAGLE probably has fuel for 48 hours and could just reach original position of enemy unit of destroyers for 36 hours only (? and in time to) leave for Freetown a.m./25 Whether NELSON should remain out without destroyers will depend much on likelihood enemy warship being present. 2 destroyers could be sent to escort in later.
(C. in C. S.A., 1749N/22 to Admty)(Reply: 0150B/23).

S.L.76.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

S.L. 76	Anticipated there will be about 55 ships in Convoy S.L. 76. (C. in C. S.A. 2051N/22 to Admty.)
BULOLO ASTURIAS	Dates of Arrival. (C. in C. S.A. 2233N/22 to N.A. Washington for B.A.R.M.)

MOST SECRET.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

PHOEBE.	Has PHOEBE been damaged? (1st S.L., 0014B/22 to C. in C. Med.)
14th D.F.	Sailed Alexandria in accordance with C.in C. Med. F. 1901/21 at 0015/22 with JERVIS, ILEX, NIZAM, HAVOCK. (Capt. D.14, 0016C/22 to F.O.C. 15. C.S.)
Suez Canal.	Anticipated arrivals at the Canal during June. (P & T.C. 0124B/22 to S.O.I. Alexandria).
German Air Threat.	Reply to C. in C. Med. 13290/19. (1st S.L. 0128B/22) See Lion Copy.
U/B.	U-boat reported by aircraft 032° 32' 029° 00' at 17300/21. (Capt. S.1, 03250/22 to RORQUAL).
RORQUAL. TETRARCH.	Alexandria s/m sanctuary will be in force 0200 to 0600/23 for RORQUAL arriving from Northward and 0200 to 0600/24 for TETRARCH arriving from Westward. All times G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 05270/22).
CAVARNA. (Roumanian).	Arrived Samson from Braila 20/5 declared cargo 150 tons arms, 850 tons "machinery", "for Iran". Endeavouring to obtain fuller details. Steps being taken to have cargo delayed in transit. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 0958/22 to C. in C. Med.).

/A/C Reports.....

MOST SECRET.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

A/C Reports of Enemy Convoys.

From information available at the Admiralty it appears that information of the following convoys was received from Air R/C in time for action to be taken by 5th D.F.

Time.	Composition	Position.
1438/12	7 M.V.	35 miles S of Lampedusa
0600/13	5 M.V.	20 miles S of Lampedusa
0640/14	5 small M.V	10 miles S of Lampedusa
0653/15	3 small M.V.	25 miles from Lampedusa

2. Request you will report what action was taken. (1st Sea Lord 1145B/22 to V.A. Malta) Reply: 2358B/23.

ZAMZAM (sunk by raider S. Atlantic).

Owners of ZAMZAM suspect shipswas rendezvoused with enemy raider because she called at Pernambuco 9/4 and agent Ommunbuoysen cabled on 10th that herdate of arrival Capetown was 1/5 that is 10 days extra voyage with fuel margin for 2 days only. Capetown agent Cotts also received similar unprecedented cable. Ship had 2500 tons of lubricating oil. (R.A. Alexandria 12130/22 to Admty.)

UPHOLDER. UPRIGHT.

Leave Patrol and proceed through 035° 51' 015° 15' and036° 00' 014° 52' so as to arrive off Marsamxett 0730B/26. UPRIGHT leaves Malta P.M./23 by same route then through 037° 00' 016° 50 to operate in vicinity Stilo until P.M./27 thence in Area M. (S.O. (S) Malta 1225B/22 to UPHOLDER).

(Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

Convoy attacked by URGE, 2 ships sunk, destroyer probably sunk. Schooners attacked by UNBEATEN.

URGE attacked Southbound convoy west of Lampedusa on 20/5, obtaining two hits on 7000-ton (?tanker) and one hit on 9,000-ton troop ship with mark (viii) torpedo. Both ships already sunk. On 21/5 a dispersed salvo was fired at long range at two Condottier cruisers and three or four destroyers north of Lampedusa, two explosions heard after correct interval and heavy explosion 30 minutes later when a mast and funnel were observed with a flying boat circling round. 2½ hours later air reconnaissance reported two cruisers and three destroyers about 50 miles further north. Seems probable that a destroyer was sunk. Between May 13 and 20 UNBEATEN carried out harassing attack on coastal shipping in Khoms area under very difficult circumstances A large schooner believed sunk and a smaller one was shelled in Khoms anchorage, at least four hits being obtained out of 21 rounds fired. Particularly requested name of submarines should not be mentioned. (V.A. Malta, 1226B/22 to Admty.)

UPRIGHT.
UTMOST.
URSULA.

Malta "Sanctuary" in force 1930 to 2200/23 for UPRIGHT leaving to N.E. 1900 to 2300/24 for UTMOST and URSULA leaving to W. and S. respectively. All times zone minus 2. (V.A. Malta, 1456B/22 to Med. Fleet).

UNION.
UTMOST.
URGE.

Leave area K P.M./25 and operate in area L as in my 1326B/11. UTMOST will leave Malta P.M./24 through 036° 20' 012° ? 28' for Gulf of Hammamet thence to operate in area K about A.M./28. On 20/5 URGE attacked southbound convoy to west of Lampedusa and Cruiser screen pass several miles to the eastward. Following day Northbound Cruiser screen was attacked North of Island. Most profitable area appears to be to westward 012° 40'. (S.O. (S) Malta 1521B/22 to UNION)

/Malta .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (Contd).

Malta, Air Raid.	C.S.R. Malta. Up to 1600 hours 22/5 times G.M.T. Night 21/22, 3 aircraft Over. Bombs dropped in sea. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1601/22.)
French Units.	My 0735/21. Ship reported exercising 60 miles north of Beirut. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria 17410/22 to Med. Fleet.)
Kotor exchange of captives.	Your 1151/6 (see Under America & W. Indies 6/5) Turks have no objection and Turkish Legation Cairo instructed to grant transit visa for Italian Officer on application. (N.A.Angora, 1943/22 to Admty.)
Air attack on enemy M.V.	Special Operation Summary. Following recco by Maryland reported in my "I" 325 22/5 4 Blenheims 139 Squadron. Despatched to attack. Only single M/V contacted 1523 G.M.T. position 15 miles 20° Pantelleria course 180° M/V reported to be tanker. 8 hits 4 of which bounced off deck 4 explosions and black smoke observed. Tanker left stationary but damage unobserved. No opposition. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1950/22 to H.Q., R.A.F.M.E.
German Shipping.	During last few weeks 15 German controlled merchant ships have proceeded from Black Sea to Aegean Sea. (N.A. Washington 1832/22 to Admty.)
Relations with Vichy.	1st Lord 2007B/22 to C. in C. Med. See Mediterranean Volume.

/Suez.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (Contd).

Suez Canal.	Situation report. Shipping movements carried out without incident. No mines located or exploded. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1931C/22 to Admty. etc).
	My 1521B/22 URGE reports Convoy routes appear to intersect in vicinity of 035° 36' 011° 54'. (S.O. (S) Malta, 1940B/22 to UNION).
A/C's in "Splice" and "Rocket".	Your 1619C/19. Confirmed that full competent crews will accompany aircraft but should return as instructed in my 1356B/21. Delays in Takoradi route cannot be accepted. (5th Sea Lord 2009B/22 to C. in C. Med.)
Operation "Splice". Recommendations for future.	Your 2140/21. (a) para 2. Preference for escort is inorder given. In any case not more than one Sunderland can be accepted. (b) A.O.C. Med. and I concur generally. (V.A. Malta, 2206B/22 to S.O. Force H).
PARTHIAN. Greek TRITON. TRIUMPH.	Alexandria submarine Sanctuary will be in force between 1600 and 2059/23 for PARTHIAN leaving and between 1500 and 2059/24 for Greek submarine TRITON leaving at 1500 and TRIUMPH leaving at 1700. All times G.M.T. (R.A. Alexandria, 2240/22 to Med. Fleet Force I).
Sunk Italian Ships.	List sunk at Benghazi, Tobruk and Bardia before December, 1940. (D.S. 625, 22/5)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

5th D.F.	V.A. Malta 2045/21. Do not exceed speed 25 knots. (C. in C. Med., 0245/22 to Capt. D.5).
Fleet Operations.	My 18430/21 para. B. Northerly sweep is to be towards Milo and Forces C. and D. should join Company. C.S. 15appoint R/V. Object, destruction (?enemy) convoy and fishing vessels. Unless circumstances demand otherwise sweep should be discontinued (?) (25) miles south of Milo and Forces C. and D should retire on Force A by Kithera Channel. Force A should keep close to west of Kithera Straits. D 14 and destroyers in company are to await ordere 80 miles south of Kaso Straits. (C. in C. Med., 04020/22 to Med. Fleet).
Engagement with enemy convoy.	My 2350. One destroyer two steamers and a number of Caiques sunk. Searched area and (?) in view of serious shortage of A.A. ammunition am joining Force A(1) at 0600. (R.A.D. Med., 0405/22 to C. in C. Med. C.S.7, GLOUCESTER).
A/C Recco.	Aircraft R/C will be carried out commencing to Northwards of Crete 0600 by Maryland aircraft. Enemy reports on 6540 kcs. (C. in C. Med, 04070/22 to Med. Fleet amended 09210/22).
Enemy Convoy.	At 0119 G.M.T. to-day a convoy of 7 ships was in 036° 44' N. 026° 48' E. steering 240°. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 07140/22 to F.O.C. 7th C.S. F.O.C. 15th C.S. F.O.C. D.F. Med.).

/Forces.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

Forces D, C, A.	Force D. return to Alexandria with all despatch. Force C. joins Force A. F.O.C. 15th C.S. (?report) fuel situation Force C. (C. in C. Med., 0716/22 to R.A.D. F.O. 15 C.S).
No Seaborne landings.	No seaborne landing took place last night at Candia, Retimo, or this area, thanks to your light forces. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 07220/22 to C. in C. Med.).
15th C.S.	C. in C. Med. 04020/22. My MLA 330° broad zig zag. Will pass through 036° 15' N. 024° 35' E. at 0930. Thence to 036° 15' N. 024° 15' E. Thence to Kithera Channel. Speed 17 knots. All quiet off Heraklion. (F.O. 15th C.S., 07450/22 to R.A.D. Med. Amended 0742/22).
Enemy at Heraklion.	Believed about 300 enemy still in position to Eastward of Aerodrome and small number South of defence area. Enemy occupation of town now confirmed (so 3 or 4 isolated buildings?) (S.N.O. Heraklion, 0800/22 to N.O.I.C. Suda).
Action with Convoy, 21/5.	My 23510/21 R.A.D. with Force D engaged enemy convoy at 2350, 42 miles N.E. of Cape Spada, One destroyer two merchant ships and a number of Caiques sank. Force D. now returning Alexandria due to shortage of A.A. ammunition. C.S. 15 reports all quiet off Heraklion, now proceeding North of Crete to join Force A west of Kithera. 6th D.F. also joining Force A. from Malta. (C. in C. Med., 08260/22 to Admty.) See also 1810/22.
Enemy Convoy, Milo.	Enemy Convoy 30 ships 12 miles south of Milo. Six British destroyers are in vicinity closingconvoy. (C. in C. Med., 09410/22 to Med. Fleet).

/U/Boat.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

U/Boat. Hunting S/M seen to dive BZ 035° (??? observe) N 020° 43' E. Being shadowed by float plane. (D.5, 09450/22 to C.S.7).

D.5. During forenoon report whether remain 20 to 30 miles west of Anti-Kithera. (F.O. 7 C.S. 0945/22 to Capt. D.5).

Probable Minelaying. Number of parachute mines have probably been laid from Aircraft 5to 15 Cables bearing 000° from Aerodrome. (S.N.O. Heraklion 0945/22 to Med. Fleet).

Enemy Convoy. My 09410/22. At 09300 enemy convoy turned E.N.E. Our destroyers were then ten miles distant. (C. in C. Med 10010/22 to Med. Fleet, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

Orders for Destroyers. My 18430/21. Destroyer relief. I am not sure where Force C. destroyers are but they must come to Alexandria. When 5th D.F. join you they will form Western Aegean striking force supported by cruisers. You must retain six destroyers as screen. Of remaining six destroyers of forces A.B and D send four direct to Alexandria with all despatch and two to arrive Agria Rumeli 035° 13' N. 023° 58' E. midnight 22/23 to embark King of Greece and H.M. Minister and party thence to Alexandria. Separate instructions follow. Capt. (D) 14 will form Eastern Aegean striking force night of 22/23 and join you A.M./23. His four with Capt. (D) 10 three will enable you to relieve remaining six destroyers of your original force. 2nd XI will sail to relieve you as soon as destroyers can be got together. Orders for cruisers later when 6th C.S. report fuel. (C. in C. Med. 10380/22, to C.S.7).

/D.5.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

D.5. — Your 0945. Do not waste too much time. Be sure you join F.O. 7 C.S. by 1600 today. Conserve fuel. (C. in C. Med., 10470/22 to Capt. D.5).

Air Report. — Crete. 21/5. Enemy air attacks on Canea and Heraklion areas recommenced early morning following by landing of about 600 parachute troops at Maleme and south of Canea. After landing of troops enemy again bombed Canea and gun position Suda Bay. Our Troops successfully counter-attacked enemy at Retimo and Heraklion in co-operation with Greek and Cretan troops. By midday further 300 parachute troops landed Maleme of whom majority believed mopped up by our troops. Further 100 parachutists landed same area during afternoon and 30 Ju. 72's were reported landing on aerodrome and beach at Maleme. Enemy dive bombed our troops Canea and Maleme area. Further parachute troops landed Heraklion area during the day. Reconnaissance of morning 22/5 reported convoy of 26 small vessels south of Milo Island escorted by 6 destroyers or cruisers and 4 fighters. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1121/22).

Damage to ORION FIJI. — Night action damage to ORION (Details). Total Casualties 4 Killed 13 wounded. FIJI, bomb damage from near miss. Remaining holes in ship's side all plugged. Fear serious, damage. Casualties 3 wounded. (C.S.7 1123/22 to C. in C. Med.)

"Glen" Landing Force. — My 1118/22 (N.T. in W.D) Arrange recognition signals and if practicable send lighters and beach party to assist disembarkation. (C. in C. Med., 11360/22 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

/NAIAD.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

NAIAD bombed.	Damaged by near misses, making water forward, two turrets in action. My P.C. and S. are (? 036°) (? 05') N. 023° (?58' ? E) 260° 16 knots. PERTH high angle ammunition practically expended. All other ships getting very low. No W/T. (C.S. 15 1150C/22 to C.S.7). Your 1100. 1330. Badly in need of your support. (C.S. 15 1156/22 to C.S. 7).
Orders to Destroyers for Royal and Minister's parties.	My 10380/22. Two destroyers are to arrive off Agria Rumeli, 035° 13' N. 023° 58' E. at mid-night 22/23 to embark Royal party and H.M. Ministers party. Details of procedure. (C. in C. Med., 12140/22 to C.S.7, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).
CARLISLE bombed.	CARLISLE hit. (C.S. 15 1235/22). My 1235. No serious damage. (C.S.15 1312/22 to C. in C. Med., C.S. 7).
C.S.7.	My P.C. and S. 221° 36° N. 23° E. 18 miles 040° 23 knots. (C.S. 7 1240/22 to C.S.15).
CHERRYLEAF. AUCKLAND.	Oiler CHERRYLEAF and AUCKLAND will arrive 032° 30' 028° 30' at noon/22 and remain in vicinity. (Capt. S.1. 12510/22 to RORQUAL)
D.5.	P.C. and S. (? 055° 18') N. 020° 50' E. 067° 30 knots. (Capt. D.5 13000/22 to C. in C Med., F.O. 7 C.S.).
Enemy Convoy.	R/C report convoy 26 small vessels 6 Cruisers or destroyers 036° 28' N. 024° 10' E. at 0745 C/22 steering 220° speed 10 knots. (C. in C. Med., 13020/22 to S.O. 6 Med. Fleet).

/DIDO.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

DIDO.
ORION.
AJAX.

My 0716C/22. DIDO continue to Alexandria. Detach ORION and AJAX to join Capt. (D) 14 in approx. position 80 miles S.W. of Kaso Straits. Capt. (D) 14 report position. (C. in C. Med., 1308C/22 to R.A.(D) M).

AETOS.
KOS. 19.

Request you divert Greek destroyer AETOS on arrival and sail KOS 19 when ready to relieve AUCKLAND as escort for Oiler CHERRYLEAF. AUCKLAND comply with my 1118C/22, remaining with Oiler CHERRYLEAF as long aspossible. (C. in C. Med., 1310C/22 to R.A. Alexandria).

D.14.

Move up to pass Kaso Strait 2100/22. (C. in C. Med., 1312C/22 to Capt. D.14).

DEFENDER.
JAGUAR.

My 2209/21. DEFENDER and JAGUAR have Military ammunition for Suda Bay on Board. They are to be detached p.m./23 to disembark this during the night 23/24. On completion Ships proceed through Anti Kithera channel. (C. in C. Med., 1324C/22 to C.S.7).

C.S.7.

Am with C.S. 15 in Kithera. (C.S.7 1335/22 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy Base at Milo.

Military Y report some of planes operating over Crete are based on Milo and that there are German troops in Milo harbour. These might be survivors from last night. Also report (corrupt group) Italiens.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1335/22 to C. in C. Med.)

WARSPITE hit, GREYHOUND sunk.

WARSPITE hit by a bomb in starboard battery No 3 boiler room out of action, probably repairable, starboard 6" and 4" out of action. GREYHOUND sunk. (F.O.7 C.S. 1411C/22 to C. in C. Med).

/Suda.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

Suda Bay W/T.	Cannot hear Suda Bay W/T Station on 8600 Kc/s at Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 14260/22 to C.S. 7)
C.S. 7.	My P.C. and S. are 194° 36° N., 23° E. 17 miles 235° 17 knots. (C.S. 7 1515/22 to Capt. D.5).
C.S. 15.	Request state of fuel and ammunition of your force. (C. in C. Med., 15340/22 to C.S. 15).
GLOUCESTER bombed.	Ship badly hit. (GLOUCESTER 1545/22 to F.O. 7 C.S) (Sunk, see 2155, 2157/22).
D.14.	C. in C. Med. 1308. My P.C. and S. 153° 34° N., 26° E, 16 miles 290° 15 knots intend to alter course 045° at 1900. (Capt. D. 14, 1616/22 to R.A. (D) M) Amended, see 1641/22.
Italian Convoy left Milo.	From Military Y. 3 Italian destroyers and numerous other craft probably Caiques left Milo 1600/22 towards Crete. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1618/22).
GLOUCESTER. FIJI.	GLOUCESTER immobilised. Have ordered FIJI to withdraw and GLOUCESTER to be sunk. (C.S. 15, 16230/22 to C. in C. Med).
Intentions.	Following are my intentions for 22/23. (C. in C. Med., 16240/22 to C.S. 7) See Lion Copy).

/5. D.F.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

5. D.F. — It has been necessary to withdraw 5th D.F. temporarily from Malta in order to assist in Crete operation by relieving Destroyers who are short of fuel. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria 1636C/22 to Admty, C. in C. Med).

Situation report. — 1630/22. At Heraklion enemy dropped stores from 14 planes into our hands. Situation well in hand. Retimo, there is still small number of enemy across Retimo - Suda Bay Road, otherwise no change. More enemy forces landed Maleme area and battle in progress east of aerodrome which is in enemy hands. Troop carriers being employed but many destroyed. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1640 /22 to C. in C. Med.)

D.14. — Amend my 1616, intend to alter course at 1800 to 035° speed of advance 15 knots. (Capt. D. 14 1641/22 to R.A.D. Med).

Message to Fleet. — Stick it out. Keep in V/S touch. Must not let Army down in Crete. It is essential no Seaborne enemy force land in Crete. (C. in C. Med., 1655C/22 to Med. Fleet at Sea).

VALIANT bombed. — VALIANT hit, 2 bombs, armament and engine at present believed to be intact. (C.S. 7 1706C/22 to C. in C. Med.)

GLOUCESTER. — Left GLOUCESTER in middle Kithera Channel on fire and abandoning ship and with your instructions to sink his ship. My P.C and S. 012° 35° N., 23° E. 30 at 1700, 175° 27 knots. KANDAHAR and KINGSTON in company (C.S. 7 ? 1710/21 to C.S. 15?).

/AJAX.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

AJAX.
ORION.

My 16240/22 Paras 3 and 4. AJAX and ORION are to part company with Capt. (D) 14 after passing Kaso Straits and proceed westward to establish patrol between 24° 15' E. and 025° 00' E. keeping outside 15 miles from land. To rejoin force E at daylight/23. Object to support either Force D. or E. (C. in C. Med., 17320/22 to Capt D. 14, Capt. D.5. AJAX). Cancelled, see 2041/22.

Forces A.E.C.

In view of result of patrols operations in Western Aegean and Approach suggest for consideration that Force A should escort Forces B and C. on passage to Alexandria tomorrow and that Capt. (D) 5 should withdraw before daylight. (C.S. 15, 18010/22 to C. in C. Med.) Not practicable, see 1950/22.

Situation, action with enemy convoy.

My 08260/22. Enemy convoy of about 30 small ships was in 36.30 N, 24.20 E, 1055 steering N. having turned back as a result of attack by C.S. 15, S Force. Several Caiques of convoy were set on fire and two sunk, but C.S. 15 reports unable to complete destruction owing to weight of air attack. C.S. 15 asked for assistance from C.S. 7 and force A at Q 1300 and the two forces made contact in Kithera Straits at 1500 and are steering to S.W.
2. DIDO, FIJI, NAIAD, PERTH are returning to Alexandria to refuel and ammunition. ORION, AJAX, joining D. 14 to enter Kaso Straits and to cover Heraklion during the night. D.5 passing Kithera Straits at 2100 to Cover Suda Maleme area. Both forces retiring on Force A at dawn.

/Casualties.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

Casualties. 3. Following casualties. GREYHOUND sunk. NAIAD near missed several compartments flooded. PERTH 6" fire control out of action. GLOUCESTER Heavily hit and immobilised, ordered to be sunk by FIJI. CARLISLE hit, no details. WARSPITE 6" and 4" starboard battery out of action, No. 3 boiler room out of action, thought repairable, speed down to 19 knots. VALIANT hit by two bombs, main armament and engines believed intact.

Minefields. 4. Mine fields successfully laid by ABDIEL between Cephalonia and Le Kas and RORQUAL off Panomi Point in Gulf of Salonika.

5. Two destroyers detailed to bring off King of Greece and H.M. Minister during night. (C. in C. Med., 1810/22 to Admty.).

Attacks on Enemy Convoys. My (? 1827)C/ 22 Part 1. Our light forces attacked an enemy Convoy 15 miles N.E. of Cape Spada at midnight last night and another in position 036° 25' N. 024° 25' E. at 1000/22. 3 Italian destroyers and other minor Naval units are searching for survivors. Remains of Convoys turned North and two destroyers and 5Merchant Ships are reported at Milo. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1811C/22 to Med. Fleet, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

Expected landing Sitia Bay. My 1827C/ part 2 final. 37 fishing vessels loaded with troops are in Milo Bay. One transport is burning in 036° 00' N. 024° 35' E. Reliable information suggest Italian forces are preparing to land Sitia bay from Rhodes about 24/5. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 1827C/22 to Med. Fleet, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

/AJAX.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

AJAX.
ORION.

Your 1308. AJAX and ORION detached in position ? 033° 25' N. 24° 28' E. at 1730. Fuel remaining AJAX 48 per cent ORION 43 per cent. (R.A. (D) Med., 1823/22 to C. in C. Med.)

My position is 245° 34° N., ? 24° E 44. In view of your 13120 and Capt. (D) 14's 1730 cannot comply with your 1308. Am rejoining R.A. (D) Med. (AJAX 18430/22 to C. in C. -Med.)

AETOS.
KOS 19.

C. in C. 1310/22. AETOS expected to arrive in 032° 15' N. 028° 10' E. at 2100/22. KOS 19 expected to arrive there at 0400/23. (R.A. Alexandria 19000/22 to AUCKLAND).

FIJI
damaged.

My position now is 154° ? 35° N., 23° E., 35. FIJI badly damaged steaming 17. KINGSTON and KANDAHAR have (? only) 40 tons of oil fuel remaining. (KANDAHAR, 19100/22 to C.S. 7, C. in C. Med.)
FIJI sinking. Require immediate assistance. 061° ? 35° N., 23° E., 35. (KANDAHAR 1920/22 to C.S. 15).

QUEEN ELIZABETH
BARHAM.

You will appreciate that sooner I can get 6 destroyers here sooner can I sail QUEEN ELIZABETH and BARHAM. (C. in C. Med., 19160/22 to C.S. 7).

Royal Party
and Ministers.

C. in C. Med's 12140/22. DECOY and HERO detailed. (C.S. 7, 19170/22 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Convoy.

S.B.N.O. Suda Bay's 1718/22. It is probable convoy's destination is Maleme. Heraklion cannot be excluded. The destruction of this convoy should it appear within striking distance is essential. (C. in C. Med., 19200/22 to Capt. D. 14, Capt. D.5, AJAX).

/AJAX.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

AJAX. ORION Destroyers.	My 1624C/22 and 1732C/22. AJAX and ORION not available. Call on each other for assistance if required. Force E, leave patrol at 0400. (C. in C. Med., 1942C/22 to Capt. D.14 Capt. D.5).
FIJI.	Proceed to position 154° 35° N., 23° E. 35 with all despatch. FIJI sinking. (C.S. 7 1944/22 to Capt. D. 10 etc).
Embarking of Royal party.	Your 1214/22 acknowledged. Endeavouring to pass message. There will be a look out in any case at Rumeli. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1950/22 to C. in C. Med.)
Forces A.B.C. Objective.	Your 1801/22. This is not practicable. Our object is to defeat a sea borne attack on Crete. You must proceed to eastward at your best possible speed during the night. You should be fairly clear of air attack when in long: of Sidi Barrani. Force A appears to be in sufficiently good fighting trim to give cover from westward of Crete. (C. in C. Med., 1950C/22 to F.O. 15. C.S., F.O. 7C.S.)
C.S. 15.	My P.C. and S. are at 2000, 034° 48' N. 022° 07' E. 170° 16 knots altering to 110° at 2100. Force A and 5th D.F. in company. -C.S. 7 is sending destroyers to assist FIJI. (C.S. 15, 1951C/22 to C. in C. Med). See 2216/22.
FIJI abandoned.	My 1920, FIJI abandoned. Am returningafter dark to pick up survivors. Request Capt. (D) 10 E.T.A. (KANDAHAR 2000/22 to C.S.7 Capt. D.10).

/R.V.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

R.V. for Destroyers.	You are better aware of conditions than I am but I suggest for your consideration that a position 35° 00' N. 023° 00' E. would be suitable for Destroyers to join you at about 0730. Subsequent movements at your discretion but I suggest A (? corrupt) to (? corrupt) and then to Alexandria at best speed. (C. in C. Med., 20200/22 to C.S.7).
Forces, D, A, E.	My 16240/22, Para 8. Force D. is to leave patrol at 0500 at high speed to join Force A. Force E is to leave patrol at 0500 at high speed through Kedgo Strait thence Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 20380/22 to 5th D.F. etc).
D. 10.	My P.C. and S. 036° (? 34' 27' 49') N. 024° E. 32 miles 274° 30 knots. VOYAGER and (?VENDETTA) following. (Capt. D. 10, 2040/22 to C.S. 7).
AJAX. ORION.	Cancel my 17320/22. (C. in C. Med., 20410/22 to Capt. D.14, AJAX, Capt. D.5).
FIJI position.	Add to my 1810/22 FIJI sinking about 40' S.W. from Gavdo, no details. (C. in C. Med., 20460/22 to Admty.)
Maleme Situation.	Situation at Maleme has deteriorated. Our attack was held up and enemy have attacked strongly. Enemy has been receiving reinforcements by troop carriers up to dusk; Situation elsewhere satisfactory. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 2107/22 to C. in C. Med.).

/FIJI.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.(contd).

FIJI.	Abandon search for FIJI survivors. Patrol Kissamo Canea Suda Bay area. (C.S.7 2143/22 to Capt. D.5).
GLOUCESTER.	(Abandon?) search for GLOUCESTER survivors. Proceed with all despatch and sweep inshore round Kissamo and Canea Bay. Join Capt. (D) 5, at R.V. ordered by him. (F.O. 7 C.S. 2155/22 to JACKAL, KELVIN).
WARSPITE VALIANT. Force B.	Your 1946. WARSPITE's starboard 4 inch out of action. 1300 rounds remaining. Plenty of Pom-poms. VALIANT all guns efficient, 57% 4.5 inch, plenty of pom-poms. Destroyer from 10 to 50% remaining. Force B Sunk. (C.S. 7 21570/22 to C. in C. Med).
JAGUAR. DEFENDER.	Ref. 2209/21, C. in C. Med. My P.C. and S. are at 2200, 033° 09' N. 026° 12' E. 305° 20 knots, DEFENDER in Company and 50 tons ammunition and 8 passengers for Crete. Request R/V. (JAGUAR 22030/22 to C.S. 7).
KANDAHAR. KINGSTON.	If practicable fuel KANDAHAR and KINGSTON during night and then (corrupt) direct to Alexandria. Failing this they are to proceed Alexandria at economical speed (rest of message undecypherable). (C. in C. Med., 22090/22 to C.S. 7).
GLENROY.	Passes boom at 2200/22 proceeding as in C. in C. Med's 1118/22. (NOIC Alexandria 22102 to AUCKLAND).

/C.S. 15.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

C.S. 15. — My 1951/22. I wish to make it clear that there are no effective cruisers in Force C and that Battle Fleet is remaining with me pending further instructions. Have instruct C.S.7. to report destroyer situation to you. PERTH cannot oil destroyers owing to damaged crane. (C.S. 15 2216C/22 to C. in C. Med.)

FIJI. — Searched position 154 35° N., 23° E. 35. Men in the water showing lights (?) wreck) is afloat, bottom up. (KANDAHAR, 2235/22 to Capt. D.10).

D.10. — Am in position by D.R. searching with VOYAGER and VENDETTA. (Capt. D.10 2250C/22 to C.S. 7 Capt. D.5, HOTSPUR).

Suggest Force A rally south of Kaso. — My 2255/22. Part 2, Final.
C. German main air bases in Greece are closest to Western Aegean.
D. Above factors indicate a strong point to East is better. This would also ease the confused destroyer fuel situation and be closer to support from Alexandria. Propose therefore that Force A should not remain near Kithera, but should form a rallying point south of Kaso as early as possible on 23rd. Capt. (D) 5should then move East after his patrol.
If you concur request you will issue orders to all Forces as only one (? set) of books and 40 per cent telegraphist casualties make things difficult here. (C.S. 7 2255/22 to ?).

R.V. for D.5. — Your 2143. Request R/V after patrol. (Capt. D.5, 2305/22 to C.S.7).

/KANDAHAR.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

KANDAHAR.
FIJI.

My P.C. and S. are 154° 35° N, 23° E., 118° 15 knots. FIJI is still afloat in this position bottom up. Have had to leave some isolated survivors. (KANDAHAR 2325/22 to Capt. D.5, Capt. D.10, C.S. 7 C.S. 15).

Numberof White Very lights. Observed from Canea in direction of Cape Spatha since 2300. May indicate presence of small craft making for Maleme along west shore.(Nore W/T 2340/22 to Whitehall W/T).

D.5.

F.O.C. 7th C.S. (2155). Will pass through 035° 49' N. 023° 37' E. at 0130, course 105° 23 knots. (Capt. D.5 23590/22 to JACKAL, KELVIN).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Tukom Surrendered.

C. in C. E.I., has reported that the Italians at Tukom, Italian Someliland surrendered morning 19/5 and prisoners have been embarked in H.M. ships. (D.S. 625, 22/5).

PENNSYLVANIA Italian.

Beached off Mogadiscio, has had back broken by heavy seas during last few days. Break just abaft bridge.
(C. in C. E.I., 0558Z/22 to Admty).

HAWKINS.

Durban departure in accordance with C, in C. E. I. 0822Z/19.
(N.L.O. Durban 0826Z/22 to Admty etc).

China.

BUFFALO inquiry.

Your 2216B/20. Please see my 1136Z of 23/4, para 8 of which dealt fully with points mentioned. Written report is in China No. 4659/231 of 29/4/41 now in transit.
(C. in C. China, 0634Z/22 to Admty).

CHENONCEAUX, French troops for Saigon.

2 independent reports state French Troop Ship CHENONCEAUX arrived Saigon 5/5 with 2500 troops despatched from France as labour battalions; figures probably include one Annamite Labour Battalion returning from active service. Some troops embarked Dakar. After leaving Madagascar ship was stopped by German Raider flying British Flay. After investigation raider hoisted Nazi colours and allowed ship to proceed. Troops included Legionnaires many being pro Nazi Germans. Comment. Taken in conjunction with interception of French Troop ship by NEWCASTLE (Ref. 1836/19 from Admty). It appears Germany is allowing pro German troops to leave France and Africa and French Indo China.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0757Z/22 to Admty etc).

Japanese use of.....

MOST SECRET.

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22.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.(contd).

Japanese use of Enemy ships.

Your 1558/18A. 2 report from Kobe states decision has been taken in Tokyo to give covering Japanese nationality to all German and Italian ships in refuge in Japan and use them locally.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore 0816Z/22 to Admty).

S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH.

D. of S.T.'s 0748B/14 - QUEEN ELIZABETH in hand 21/5 for docking. Completion date 2/6.
(A.S. Singapore, 0850Z/22 to Admty).

BATHURST, LISMORE.

Your 1919/20. Ships will sail 26th. Weapons not available but presume they will be provided from those at Aden Vide C. in C. East Indies 0852/20.
(C. in C.China 0901Z/22 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

RECCA

Italian, at Havana, Cuba. New York agents asked Head Office at Genoa on 13/5 to approve sale to a Cuban buyer who said he had consent of Cuban Govt. (D.S. 625, 22/5).

T.C.11

Ref. T.C.11. STIRLING CASTLE is now due Halifax 14/6, but she has already fully loaded in Australia.
(D.S.T., 0352B/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Crews ex German and Italian ships.

My 0928R/18. Leaving Punta Arenas (CR) this morning per COSTA RICA Launch STELLA MARIS for Canal Zone under escort U.S. Destroyer GOFF. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1013R/22, to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

/S.L. Convoys...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

S.L. Convoys and U.S. Forces.	Your 1902A/2 para. 2. Only information of movements of our forces so far received from Admiralty is that regarding movement of Task Force in Admty. 1948B/10. Understand that route of this force has now been considerably modified and also that a Task Force 1 and Task Force 3 are also operating on A. and W.I. Station. Request further inbmation may be given to me. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1301Q/22 to Admty).
DUNELMIA "Q" Report.	N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1519Z/20. This was DERBYSHIRE (B.S.S. 1518P/22, to Admty).
U.S. Signals.	Admty 1838/6. U.S. recognition signals continue as follows during May. (D.S.D. 1754B/22).
Dakar.	Following from Navy Dept. from Dakar 20/5. Arrived CAP TOURAINE with 300 native troops for demobilization and 150 Indo-Chinese for transhipment to SAIGON. TOURS arrived from North. (2) There is now a midnight curfew and a blackout. (N.A. Washington, 1800/22 to Admty).
T.C.11.	Sailing date and arrangements. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1833Z/22 to D. of S.T.) See Lion Copy.
H.X.129	My 1113 P 12. Regret no A.M.C. available for H.X. 129 which will have REVENGE as escort. RANPURA should be deleted without alteration to other dates. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1951P/21 to Admty).
MONSERRATE German.	Has been brought into dock. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 2213R/22 to Admty).
EMILE BERTIN, Martinique.	My 2242Q/21. Air R/C 22/5 showed similar dispositions and in addition one cruiser probably EMILE BERTIN and one escort vessel at Martinique. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2302Q/22 to CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN).

MOST SECRET.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Minefield, Darwin.	Intention to lay. Position. (A.C.N.S. 1210Z/22 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CITY OF SHANGHAI, ALFRED OLSEN, MARISA, (torpedoed 16/5) RODNEY STAR.	Survivors, from CITY OF SHANGHAI in second officer's boat picked up by Argentine vessel and landed Pernambuco 20/5, number not stated. (2) 15 survivors from M.V. ALFRED OLSEN landed on Sierra Leone mainland from Lifeboat on 19/5. (3) COLUMBINE picked up 13 survivors from Dutch S/S MARISA on 20/5. Vessel torpedoed in 6° 10' N 18° 09' W. at 2135/16 (4) BOREAS picked up Master and 20 survivors from S/S RODNEY STAR on 21/5. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0207N/22 to Admty).
Unknown ship.	Following from Resolution Island (begins) 2258 G.M.T. "SSSS 59.16 N., 52.29 W. sighted". Particulars doubtful, heavy interference, no bearing (ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0250Z/22 to Admty).
?	Tow parted 0800. MARAUDER now towing. Faeroes in sight about 15 miles. S.of A about 4 knots. (BRIGAND, 1135/22 to A.C.O.S.) Both tugs fast towing stern first 62° 06' N 07° 46' W. E.T.A. Skopen Fiord 2200B/22. (NORTHERN CHIEF, 1500B/22 to A.C.O.S.)
Unknown ship.	Heard distress S S S S 0625 N 23.00 W. torpedoed at 2147/21 G.M.T. Name of ship not heard. (ANGLO INDIAN, 1240/22 to Freetown W/T).
LASSELL (torpedoed 30/4).	CLAN MACGILLIVRAY intercepted 6/5 following LASSELL'S boats in water approx 012° N 025° 30' W 10 miles. Please send assistance. 0720/6 (ends). Sailing orders to alter course to pass through 012° 06' N 025° 46' W at 1200 Z/6 and 012° 00' N 025° 27' W at 1720/6 covering wide area during search. No boats floating wreckage survivors seen. Freetown's 0916 /6 broadcast refers. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1510/22 to Admty).
H.X. 126 (attacked 20/5).	U.S. C.G.cutter MODOC at 1800 G.C.T. 55.24 N 38.50 W proceeding to rescue Convoy Survivors Requests information nearby ships, MODOC. (Valentia Radio, 1805/22 to Admty).

/U.S. Cutter.....

MOST SECRET.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

H.X.126 (attacked 20/5).(contd), — U.S. Cutter NORTHLAND at 1900 G.C.T. 57.30 N. 40.25 W proceeding to rescue convoy survivors Request information nearby ship NORTHLAND (Valentia Radio, 1903/22 to Admty).

BRITISH GRENADIER. — Following has been read. 6.15 N 12.59 W. BRITISH GRENADIER torpedoed. (Freetown W/T 1958N/22). Tanker 6857 tons outward bound from Freetown. (D.S. 626).

Submarines Reported.

0723 — Own aircraft sighted U-boat which dived in approx. 058°54' N 005° 26' E at 0723. (F.O.S. 1243B/22 to MINERVE).

2147/21. — For all British and Allied ships. S/M in 006° 25' N 023° W. at 2147 G.M.T./21. (C. in C. S.A., 1340N/22 to GBMS 6A).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1411B/22) (F.O.S., 1529B/22).

1419 — By D/F at 1419 G.M.T. U/B in 47° N 30° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1732B/22).

1915 — By D/F at 1915 G.M.T. U/B in area 55° to 56° N 35° to 38° W. (D.D.I.C. 2212B/22).

1958 — Admiralty Message A.F.6.16 N., 12.59 W at 1958/22. (C. in C. S.A., 2032N/22 to G.B.M.S.6A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By VERBENA and BURNHAM 21/5.

Reply following information:
(A) Range of VERBENA sighting U-boat on surface.
(B) Range of U-boat on diving.
(C) Any near falling shot.
(D) Bearing and distance of U-boat from Wreck of ELUSA on diving.
(E) Effect of d.c. attack.
(F) d.c.s remaining.
(S.O. 12th Escort Gp., 0827Z/22 to BURNHAM)
Reply: 1130/23.
N.O.I.C. passto R.A.F. Iceland. (? Belief that) U Boat with battery low will be forced to surface soon within 50 miles of 058° 55' N 039°30' W. BURNHAM and VERBENA searching vicinity. If R.A.F. support can possibly be extended to this position destruction or capture of U Boat is assured. During short period of night flares released at intervals will help prevent U Boat getting away on surface. U Boat has not been able to charge battery since 0300/21.
(S.O.12 Escort Group, 0914Z/22 to Iceland).
N.O.I.C. Iceland pass to R.A.F. Iceland, S.O. 12th Escort Group's 0914/22. Centre of area of search 058° 45' 038° 40'.
(BURNHAM, 2059Z/22 to Iceland).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Search for BISMARCK & PRINZ EUGEN.

At 2023B NORFOLK in 66° 43' N. 26° 38' W. (Denmark Strait) sighted a battleship and a cruiser 6 miles to the N.N.W. steering 240°. SUFFOLK also sighted them at 2258B and was still shadowing them at 2359B. It was subsequently reported that a third smaller ship, thought to be a destroyer was present, and turned away to the north-eastward.

MINERVE is to patrol near 64° 30' N. 1° E. and P.31 near 65° 30' N. 2° E.

Denmark Straits patrol was not flown today on account of weather. Cross over patrol south of Faroes was only flown from 1330 to 1700.

? Raider.

There was further D/F indication this afternoon of an enemy surface unit in approx. 42° 33' N. 11° 15' W, probably homeward bound.

Atlantic convoy escorts.

A/S escort for all HX, S.C. and corresponding OB convoys is to be extended as far as about 45° W. in the latitude of Newfoundland as soon as arrangements can be made.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled on account of bad weather.

Blenheims today attacked shipping off the Dutch coast; one merchant vessel is believed to have been damaged off Ijmuiden.

A Beaufort of Coastal Command, on patrol along the west coast of France reports a hit with a 250 lb. bomb on a tanker of the ALTMARK class in La Pallice Roads.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N. 20 called for assistance at 0944 16 miles S.S.E. of Harwich. There are no further details.

A single enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs in Dover harbour at 0942 today. No damage or casualties resulted.

S.S. BIDASSOA was bombed and damaged this evening and was beached at St. Ives.

Mining.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary, off Milford Haven and Belfast.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya French Tanker Sunk.

APHIS is carrying out a special operation with the army in the Western Desert. At 1229 UPHOLDER attacked south bound convoy of 2 laden French ships, considered to be tankers, escorted by an Italian sloop; one tanker was hit and seen to be sinking.

Suez Canal.

The Canal is open to traffic.

Attack on Crete.

5th D.F. patrolled the Candia-Maleme area last night. KELLY and KASHMIR sank one large caique full of soldiers and munitions. The Heraklion area was patrolled last night by Capt. D.14 and 3 destroyers.

Forces withdrawn towards Alexandria 0408.

At 0408 C. in C. Med ordered all forces to withdraw towards Alexandria forthwith. In consultation with C. in C.M.E, C. in C. Med. at 11270 ordered GLENROY and escort to return to Alexandria. At 1559B the Admiralty sent orders that the force was to turn to the northward, pending further instructions. Believing that the Admiralty must be in possession of information which he had not received, C. in C. Med. ordered the force to comply; but at 2335 he ordered the force to return to Alexandria, owing to the danger of dive bombing attacks at daylight, and because disembarkation of troops during daylight hours under the present air conditions was out of the question.

KELLY KASHMIR sunk KIPLING damaged.

KELLY and KASHMIR were dive bombed and sunk about 0800 today in 20° 34° N. 24° E. 44 miles (about 20 miles south of west end of Crete) KIPLING, who was close by was damaged about the same time by collision with a wreck, and is making for Alexandria after picking up survivors.

DEFENDER and JAGUAR are taking military ammunition to Suda Bay to night.

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.(contd).

Situation 1000/23.

No seabourne enemy managed to land last night. At Retimo and Heraklion the situation is satisfactory. At Maleme the aerodrome is in enemy hands but is under fire; a useful bombardment was carried out last night by 5th D.F.

The King of Greece and ministers were taken off from the west end of Crete last night by HERO and DECOY.

Suda Bay Area.

There were several further heavy air raids on Suda Bay today. A machine gun attack at 1230 was concentrated on M.T.'s who were all put out of action. The military were reported at 1937 to be holding a defensive position east of Maleme. Field guns have been lost.

Blenheims and South African Marylands today bombed and machine gunned about 150 JU 52's at Maleme, destroying 10 and damaging others. 2 Beaufighters also machine gunned enemy aircraft disembarking troops at Maleme, destroying 4 troop carriers. Seven Hurricanes were sent to Crete.

The enemy heavily bombed our troops west of Canea this morning, and Suda Bay this afternoon.

It is estimated that about 80 troop carriers landed at Maleme during today.

Enemy E boats were reported near Maleme this evening.

Candia Area.

There were further enemy landings (presumbbly by air) at Heraklion during the day. From 20/5 to 1657/23. AA fire destroyed 16 troop carriers in this area.

The enemy heavily bombed our troops at Retimo and Heraklion this afternoon.

/The....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

The enemy was still holding out at Heraklion this evening.

East Indies.

LEANDER. Is to proceed to the Mediterranean at once.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. BERHALA is reported to have been torpedoed today in 9° 50' N. 17° 50' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

1st M.S.F.

Your 1257/22. 1st M.S.F. is at one weeks notice to return to M/S duties. 1st M.S.F. will probably be required for escort duty about 27/5.
(C. in C. W.A. 1152B/23 to S.O. 1st M.S.F.)

Boundaries of Portsmouth and Plymouth Commands.

A.L.M.05676/41 of 8/5/41.
1. Confirmed that no change is intended in boundaries of Portland sub-command, which will be partly in Portsmouth and partly in Plymouth Commands. C. in C. Portsmouth will remain administrative authority of F.O.I.C. Portland.
2. No difficulties are foreseen in this arrangement and both C. in C. Portsmouth and F.O.I.C. Portland have been consulted and agree.
3. Propose to bring new limits into force on 1/6.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2218/23).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Forth, Balloon Barrage.

Request confirmation that H.Q.F.C. agree to anti-minelaying mobile balloon barrage being flown during dark hours to protect the Swept Channels near Inchkeith.
2. Request information whether any vessels have been allocated and if so when they may be expected. 8 are required.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1230/23 to Admty).

Scapa.

Your 1207/16. In view of security provided by Nevi Skerry Boom it is not repeat not approved to use INVERLANE as suggested. She may prove to be the only spare blockship available for next winter. Enquiries are being made whether DANMARK and barge are available.
(V.C.N.S. 2345B/23 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

AVON VALE

Admty 1548B/22. AVON VALE will require to boiler clean on arrival Belfast on 28/5 Proposed period 8 days. Is this acceptable.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1010B/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

FARNDALE

Admty's 1548B/22. Subject to satisfactory completion of working up practices, it is anticipated FARNDALE will be ready to sail 26/5.
(R.A.D. 1030/23 to C. in C. W.A., Admty).
Admty's 1548B/22. When will FARNDALE be ready.
(C. in C. W.A. 1303B/23 to R.A.D. H.F.)

Escort for H.X. 127

Can two ships of 4th D.F. be detailed to meet and escort H.X. 127 to U.K. arriving in North Channel about 31/5? This would enable redistribution of W.A. Escort Force to be commenced without delay.
(C. in C. W.A. 1147B/23 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Reply. Certainly.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1602/23).

Escorts.

Following alteration to programme for escorts as ordered by my 2254B/22 have become necessary.
(A) On being detached OTTAWA and RESTIGOUCHE are to proceed to St. Johns Newfoundland.
(B) Capt. D.4 is to detail two destroyers of 4th D.F. to proceed in company with PIORUN and meet H.X. 127 further meet signal will be made to Capt. D.4.
(C) My 0234B/22. Two destroyers only of 4th D.F. will now meet LONDON.
(D) OTTAWA to report E.T.A. St. Johns when well clear of convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 1231B/23 to Capt. D.4. OTTAWA RESTIGOUCHE.)
OTTAWA and RESTIGOUCHE now on escort duty are to be based on St. Johns Newfoundland and have been ordered to proceed direct after being detached in approx 051° 00' N 024° 00' W. Estimated they will arrive 31/5.
(C. in C. W.A. 1237B/23 to C.N.S. Canada).

/D.6.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd.)

D.6. — After leaving RODNEY Capt. D.6 and destroyers are to return to Scapa at best speed. (C. in C.W.A. 1311B/23 to Capt. D.6)

Operations.

Patrols by MINERVE and P.31.

277. A. MINERVE proceed through 62° N. 01° 30' E. to patrol near 64° 30' N. 01° E.
B.P.31 proceed to patrol near A 65° 30' N. 02° E.
C. Submarines proceed with despatch when north of 61° N.
D. Following T/B/R will be arranged.
(F.O.S. 1204B/23 to MINERVE, P.31)

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER.

Join B.C. One who is probably steering to N.W. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2005/23 to ANTELOPE, ANTHONY.)
1 Battleship, 1 cruiser bearing 330° 6 miles course 240° my position 66° 43'. 25° 22' W. (NORFOLK 2032B/23) Informing A.I.G.62. Ships and Authorities Area A. H.Q.C.C. (D.D.I.C. 2155B/23).
Proceed when ready to locate enemy reported 066° 50' N. 025° 30' W. course 240° at 1836Z/?23. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2057/23 to MALCOLM).
My C. and S. on leaving Reykjavik 250° 23 knots as long as there is a chance of interception. Intend returning to oil (?forthwith) (ANTELOPE 2100Z/23 to F.O.C.1st B.C.S. N.O.I.C. Iceland).
No enemy in sight visibility 8 miles my position 66° 17' N. 25° 42' W.
(NORFOLK 2145/23 to Scapa).
My 2129. Enemy is altering course to starboard (SUFFOLK 2152/23 to NORFOLK)

/My 2152 .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd.)

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER. (contd.)

My 2152. Enemy is hidden in rain storm consider he has resumed course my position 066° 25' N. 026° 24' W. X 11. (SUFFOLK 2209B/23 to NORFOLK)

No enemy in sight in the area reading clockwise between 180° and 250° average visibility distance 8 miles and between 000° and 250°. My position 348° 66° N. 26° W. 27 miles. (SUFFOLK 2214B/23 to NORFOLK)

My P.C. and S. 66° 12' N. 26° 25' W. 250° 30 knots. (NORFOLK 2230B/23 to Scapa)

Enemy in sight bearing 232° distance 18 miles. My position 66° 12' N. 27° 5' W. (SUFFOLK 2253B/23 to NORFOLK)

My 2258B both Enemy ships in sight C. and S. 232° 28 knots. My position 066° 09' N. 027° 11" W. (SUFFOLK 2306B/23 to ?)

I bear from you 142° 10 miles steering 200° to cover move of enemy away from ice. (NORFOLK 2311/23 to SUFFOLK) Passed F.O.(S)

My 2306B. Enemy is altering course 20° to port. (SUFFOLK 2341B/23 to Scapa)

My 2341B. Enemy hidden in fog near Ice estimated course 200° my position 065° 56' N. 027° 50' W. (SUFFOLK 2349/23 to Scapa)

Enemy in sight bearing 210 degs. My position 163 66° N. 28° W. 9 (SUFFOLK 2359B/23)

/IRIS .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd.)

IRIS. — Your 1902B/22. Subject to making up shortage of crew IRIS expects to sail 24/5. Operations will take from 8 to 10 days provided weather is suitable. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1131B/23 to C.in C. W.A.)

GIANNA M. — Italian prize GIANNA M. and cargo given into custody of Admiralty Marshal's substitute and prize crew. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1301B/23 to Adty.)

Enemy unit. — Adty. 0328/23. There is further D/F indication of enemy surface unit in approx. 042° 33' N. 011° 15' W. probably homeward bound. (F.O.(S) 1446B/23 to S/M's Area A)

Denmark Straits. Possible passage inside Ice. — Study of recent air reconnaissance show that a well built ship could make passage through Denmark Straits about 50 miles inside ice edge. Another channel exists about 55 miles wide at 066° 25' N. 032° 05' W. 18 miles wide at 067° 15' N. 031° 50' W. and 15 miles wide at 068° 20' N. 028° 30' W. A.O.C. R.A.F. considers Air Reconnaissance would establish whether it is possible to reach open sea's latter position if another Catalina were available. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1817/23)

MARQUES DE COMMILLAS. — 1610. A/A on patrol MZCT 2518 cross over through VWEG 4540 VWCT 4520 MZEG 2040.
1717. Sighted 1 MV Spanish vessel MARQUES DE COMMILLAS 10,000 tons C/S 270° SP 12 KTS Spanish markings on sides.
1735. Sighted 1 MV CASTILLO MON C/S 060 SP 10 KTS position VWCT 4308 Spanish markings. (Plymouth A.C.Q.Q. 2305/23)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Patrols and R/C's.

My 2338/22. (a) Cross over Patrol Two Sorties by Sunderland between 062° 32' N. 008° 47' W - 062° 52' N. 008° 23' W - 063° 38' N. 012° 30' W - 063° 59' N. 012° 00' W. (b) Arranged by C. in C.W.A. (c) Cross over Patrol by Hudson between 060° 41' N. 002° 24' W. - 061° 26' N. 006° 44' W. - 061° 46' N. 006° 10' W. - 060° 18' N. 002° 58' W.
(d) R/C of Trondhjem and vicinity . R/C of Bergen and vicinity between Bergen and Stadlandet, and Bergen and Christiansand. Patrol STABRUL - BERT - TROST - STAND - HORNLI. All from First Light.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0022/23 to C.in C.H.F)
A. LV/G1/23/5.
C. Cancel LV/G3/22/5. Following cross-over patrols are to be carried out forthwith by two Catalinas only with the object of locating and shadowing enemy warships which may be attempting to break out into North Atlantic. Depth charges are to be carried and enemy submarines are to be attacked on sight.
No. 1 patrol between Z N B B 5503 and H V W M 1438.
No. 2 patrol between H V W M 2812 and O F T Y 5632.
Patrols are to be maintained to prudent limit of endurance. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0055/23)
My 2045/22. Request R/C also cover approaches to Iceland paticularly Akreyri (C. in C.H.F. 0146B/23 to Adty.)
My 0022/23 Para.(D) R/C postponed owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0630/23 to Adty. C. in C.H.F. A.C.O.S)
C. in C. Rosyth's 2338/22 and 0022/23 Air R/C for 23/5 arranged as follows:- * Denmark Strait patrol ordered but not yet confirmed from 66° 25' N. 23° 07' W. on a line 320° for depth of 100 miles or to ice limit if closer. (C. in C.W.A. 0745B/23 to C. in C.H.F.) * As A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0055/23.

/A cross over .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Patrols and R/C's. (contd.)

C. A cross over patrol between the following points, is to be carried out with the object of locating and shadowing an enemy surface raider which may be making for St. Nazaire or Bordeaux. MZEG 4330, WRCT 1130. Aircraft to be on patrol by 1500/23 and to remain until prudent limit of endurance. (H.Q.C.C. 0950/23)

C. in C. Rosyth's 0630/23 is passed to you for information. Begins (X - X 0630/23 attached) Ends. (H.W.R. 1032/23 to ARETHUSA, BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER, F.O.C.N.P. F.O.I.C/ Iceland)

A.M. 0328 B/12. D/F Bearings of enemy unit, 19 Groups are flying a patrol from 45° 48' N. 006° 12' W. to 044° 04' N. 005° 48' W. to 044° 16' N. 005° 13' W. to 45° 37' N. 006° 48' W. between 1500 and 2230/23. (C. in C. Plymouth 1054/23 to S/M's on patrol, Plymouth Cmd.)

Onions reconnaissance of Denmark Strait and particularly Akureyri to be given priority over all other commitments. Acknowledge. (A.C.W.A. 1226B/23 to N.O.I.C. Iceland for 30 Wing)
My 0022/23 para. (C) - cross over discontinued after 2 sorties owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1323/23 to C. in C.H.F.)
944 Special Wellington Aircraft proceeded on Met. R/C and if possible R/C of Norwegian Coast from Bergen to Stadlandet. (C. in C. Rosyth 1502/23 to C. in C. H.F. Adty. A.C.O.S.)
Hudson taking off 1515 for Denmark Straits via Staagbierg Huk to carry out R/C between pack ice and Straumnes. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1520/23 to R.A. 1st. C.S.)

/My 0754B/23 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Patrols and R/C's. (contd.)

My 0754B/23. Cross over patrol flown from 1330 until 1700 and then withdrawn on account of weather. Denmark Straits R/C was not flown on account of weather. (A.C.W.A. 1905B/23 to C. in C.H.F.)
1434 airborne on search area Lorient to St. Nazaire. Patrol ineffective owing to lack of cloud cover. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1915/23)
One Hudson aircraft left 2118Z/23. to carrying out search of area Z.F.Z.P. 0000 J.B.E.U. 0000 K.B.Z.P. 0000 Z.F.E.U.0000 (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2120Z/23)

Enemy Air Operations.

Convoy F.N.

'Help Agent' H.J.V.F - 4120 (?)
(SOUTHDOWN 0944/23)
Fighter A/C despatched to assist Convoy "Agent" (Rosyth W/T 0951/23)

Convoy F.S.

Fighter A/C despatched to assist Convoy "Booty". (Nore 1013/23)

Dover.

Single enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs in Dover harbour at 0942/23. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 2144B/23)

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

S.A. Mines detonated as follows.
(Capt.M/S Sheerness 0957/23 1740/23)

Special mine sweeping arrangements were made to safeguard S.S. MOOLTAN on passage northwards yesterday. Though the channel had been swept during the previous night one acoustic and two magnetic mines were swept in channel in Barrow Deep a short ti before vessel passed. One of the latter presumably a mine fitted with period delay mechanism. (C. in C. Nore 1026B/23 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd.)

Operation B.S.57.

If weather conditions are suitable intend to sail at 2000/23 to lay at 0250/24. (PLOVER 1150B/23)
B.S. 57 again postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 1522B/23)

Belfast.

At 0814 M.S.T. Whaler SHUSA detonated one large red mine in 040° 15 cables Pile Light. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1330B/23)

Milford Haven.

Ground mine detonated by TYNEDALE fitted S.A. Gear in 180° St. Anns Head Light 11 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1740B/23)

Operation B.S.62.

Details. Operation to be carried out on 27/5 or as soon after as practicable. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1905B/23)

Brighton.

Ref. search for mines off Brighton A/C sighted line of 23 buoys or mines P. apparently attached to each other between W.C.R.U. 4752 and W.C.L.J. 4500 (discription) Two marker buoys sighted in position W.C.R.U. 4259. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 2242/23)

Enemy Intelligence.

Trondheim.

Photographs taken at 1730/22 show three destroyers and catapult ship in Trondheim harbour. Dense fog on most coasts and pilot considers surface navigation would have been very difficult. (C. in C. Rosyth 0032/23 to C. in C.H.F.)

/? raider .....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (contd.)

? Raider.	At 1937/22 G.M.T. D/F Bearings indicate enemy surface vessel in area 42° to 43° N. 11° to 13° W. probably homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 0328B/23 to S/M's on patrol in Plymouth Command.) (H.Q.C.C.)
Brest.	1515/23. Photographic R/C shows both battlecruisers in usual positions. (D.D.I.C. 1839/23)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C. 30 — 26 ships have arrived under Rear Adm. K. Creighton, 8 allied, 1 neutral, cargoes. (D.S. 626, 23/5)

Ocean Convoys for Methil calling West Coast. — A.M. 1638/8/5, C. in C. Rosyth's 1323/9 and my 2204/11. After discussion with C. in C. Rosyth, agreement has been reached that proposal (C) 8. A.M. 1638/8/5 could be implemented
(Remarks re A/A ships) Thus, there are now insufficient A/A escorts to enable protection to be given other than by the present method of homeward convoys calling at west coast ports and proceeding in subsequent W.N. convoys. Regret, therefore, that it now appears necessary that existing syatem must continue.
(C. in C. W.A. 1259/23 to Admty.)

W.S.9.A. — My 1841/22. Request immediate confirmation that embarkation dates can be maintained and that vessels will be ready to sail on completion of embarkation programme. (D.S.T. 0314B/23 to P.S.T.O. W. of Scotland)
Your 1841/22. Confirm that dates can be maintained and that vessels should be ready to sail in accordance with programme.
(D.S.T.O. Liverpool 1630B/23 to D. of S.T.)

D/G Defects. — Merchant Ships already at sea and bound overseas should not be ordered into a U.K. port on account of defective D.G. equipment, but should be instructed to proceed and effect necessary repairs abroad.
(D.T.D. 1810B/23 to C. in C's)

/Atlantic Convoy Escorts ...

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd.)

Atlantic Convoy Escorts.

Decided to extend A/S escort for all H.X. S.C. and corresponding O.B. Convoys as far as about 45° W. in the latitude of Newfoundland as soon as arrangements can be made. Escorts will be conveniently based in U.K., Iceland and St. John's N.F. C. in C. W.A. requested (a) to reorganise escorts accordingly, allowing for all Canadian destroyers and the corvettes now in Canada operating from St. John's, and (b) to make proposals for the detailed working of the scheme. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2027/23 to C. in C's. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa etc.)

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

LANCE.	Am broken down off West end of Hoy. Request assistance. (LANCE 0050/23 to A.C.O.S.) My 0050 expect to be able to steam by 0400. Intend returning to Scapa. (LANCE 0123B/23) LANCE returned to harbour a.m. today owing to shortage of water in boilers, should be -ready to sail p.m. today /23 if tests are satisfactory. (R.A.D. H.F. 1025B/23 to C. in C.H.F.)
DUNKWA.	POLYDORUS. Arrived convoy anchorage p.m./23 has on board following rescued survivors Ex DUNKWA. (NEWMARKET 0820B/23 to N.C.S.O. Oban)
JOSEFINA THORDEN.	My 2246B/22 ships helm jammed hard over. Cargo about 7000 tons of petrol. I hope to free rudder today Friday, after which ship could be towed bow first by Fleet tugs BRIGAND and MARAUDER at about eight knots. Request destination may be indicated and A/S escort provided so that ship may proceed without delay. It would be hazardous to take her into Skaale Fiord and nothing would be gained by keeping her in Faeroes in view of risk incurred thereby. (N.O.I.C.Faeroes 1415B/23 to A.C.O.S.)
DANOA.	S.O.S. Developed a list making St. Ives. Dangerous list. (DANOA 1547/23)
BOADICEA.	BOADICEA defects. Time required 3 days. (Cmd. (D) 4. 1830/23 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
MENDIP.	Cancel my 1705/23. Sailing postponed pending completion of defect. (C. in C. Rosyth 1920/23 to MENDIP.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LATONA — Return to Gibraltar. Further instructions follow. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0140B/23 to LATONA).

Enemy Unit. — My 0038 A. Further D/F Bearing indicates enemy surface ship in area 042° - 043° N 011° - 013° W probably homeward bound. (F.O.C.N.A.0431A/23 to N.A. Stn. 0910A/23 to CLYDE, PANDORA).
My 0431A/23. Further bearings Simonstown 308/2. Indicating position within 150 miles 026° N 042° W, probable enemy surface ship. (F.O.C.N.A., 1059A/23 to N.A. Stn).

OLYMPUS — Pass through 038° 00' 003° 00' E and 036° 20' 002° 00' W. Proceed on the surface at your discretion West of 007° 00' E. Report E.T.A. on R/V 002° 00' W. C.3. reports German E. boat at Oran may be (?painted) French colours.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1010A/23, to OLYMPUS).

B.D.V's — Your 1104B/21 B.D.V.'s JENNETT, BONNET, PUNNET arrived p.m./22 bunkering and expect to sail noon/23. RENNET, LUMINARY and FOREMOST 101 will then (2 corrupt groups) food and water. (V. Consul, Fayal, 1545/23 to Admty).

Force H. — Raise steam for full speed.
(1st S.L. 2253B/23 to F.O. Force H).

South Atlantic.

German Units. — Your 1749/22. Cruiser KOLN only German warship unaccounted for but it is unlikely she is in this area.
(D.O.D. (F) 0150B/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

CAMERONIA — Has on board draft for U.K. of approx. 450 naval, 280 R. A.F. and 1004 army personnel, will be ready to leave Durban 26/5. Request instructions regarding escort. If escort not available by 26th intend sending ship to East London to wait ther as Durban must be cleared for W.S.8 A.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1010B/23 to C. in C. S.A

French Ships.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

French Ships.	Take French ships to Durban N.O.I.C. Simonstown will supply any route instructions required. (C. in C. S.A., 1347N/23 to PRETORIA CASTLE).
NELSON S.L.75	Your 1749N/22. Concur in route given in your 1617/22. Consider it undesirable for NELSON or EAGLE to operate in this area without destroyers. Request you will recall NELSON to Freetown and sail her to overtake and escort S.L.75. (V.C.N.S. 1430B/23 to C. in C. S.A.)
CALVO SOTELO (Spanish G/B) Visit to Freetown.	Your 2031/19. Action through diplomatic channels to stop visit of CALVO SOTELO cannot be taken since to do so would attract undesirable attention to Freetown area at the date of ANSON's visit. Presence of CALVO SOTELO and ANSON in harbour at same time should be avoided if possible. If visits clash do the best you can by selective berthing and adjusting of times of arrival and departure to reduce the risk of identification. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1931B/23 to C. in C. S.A.)
TEBRO, NEVADA, WINDHUK.	N.C.S.O. Santos reports Italian ship TEBRO has fires alight and has nearly finished having bottom cleaned by divers. Danish ship NEVADA also had fires alight this week. German ship WINDHUK received 250 drums oil fuel yesterday and is now taking water. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2051Z/23 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

ZEFFIRO (Italian).	Report of 20/5 states ZEFFIRO, 5165 tons sunk in approx. 37° N., 11° 10' E, near Cape Bon, probably by mine. She carried 7600 tons of phosphates. URGE claims to have sunk a ship on 20/5 near the above position. (D.S., 626, 23/5).
Fulmar Crash.	Italian news of 22/5 states a Hurricane was shot down south of Pantellaria by naval A.A. guns. V.A. Malta doubts shot down and it probably crashed near by, also possibly a Fulmar not a Hurricane. (S.O.(I) Malta, 0117B/23 to S.O. Force H).
LEANDER	First Lord requests that you will ask Mr. Fraser whether he is prepared to allow LEANDER to proceed to the Mediterranean at once. (1st S.L., 0125B/23 to C. in C. Med).
Operation "SPLICE"	25 Hurricanes arrived Egypt 22/5 escorted by 3 Wellingtons. A total of 42 Hurricanes of "SPLICE" operation escorted by 2 Beaufighters and 3 Wellingtons have therefore arrived Egypt to date. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 0728/23).
HELKA, SOUTHERN MAID.	Your 2115/22 and your 1920/20. Intend sailing HELKA to sea at 0300/25 to N.E. escorted by SOUTHERN MAID to Aden at 2130/26 finally sailing for Alexandria 0300/27. Estimate 600 tons can be pumped in tonight. Ship is safer at sea than in harbour and if sunk in pumping in ballast would seriously impede working of port. Can additional escort be provided from dawn to dusk on 25th? (S.O. Force I 0829C/23 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

/Malta Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

Malta Convoy.	My 1758B/12. All cargoes except coal will be discharged by 25/5. Anticipate ships will be ready to sail 29/5. I hope it will be possible to get BRECONSHIRE away earlier to start loading for Convoy M.W.8. (V.A. Malta, 0905B/23 to C. in C. Med).
JIUL	Reported that Roumanian steamer JIUL, 3,000 tons, speed about 9 knots, passed Istanbul 1245 G.M.T. for Aegean. Description. (Beyoglu, No. T.O.O. /23 to Cairo).
UNIQUE	Leaves Malta p.m./25 through 035° 25' 013° 00' to operate in area M, 034° 40' 011° 50' - 342° - 40 - 70. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1335B/23 to UNION, UTMOST).
UNION, UTMOST, UNIQUE, URSULA.	My 1128B/21. UNION in area L from p.m./25. ? UTMOST in (HERMAMET) until p.m./27 then to area (??). UNIQUE leaves Malta p.m./25 for area N 034° 40' 011° 50' - 342° - 40 - 70. URSULA arrives 032° 30' 015° 00' p.m./26, off Khoms during 27, along 033° 20' between 013o 14' and 012° 50', off Zuara 1/6, arriving Turgeuness dawn/2nd, then patrol latitude 034° 14' to meridian 012° 00' until p.m./4 to arrive Malta a.m./6. (Cdr. S.1. 1407B/23 to Capt. S.1.)
CLYDE SEVERN.	CLYDE arriving 24/5 and SEVERN ready for service 24/5, are at your disposal for operations in Western Mediterranean, based on Gibraltar. It is requested that SEVERN may be held for the present to provide escort for S.S. CITY OF DIEPPE from Gibraltar towards Halifax as far as the American zone. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1432B/23 to C. in C. Med).

/C.S.R.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

C.S.R. Malta up to 1600 hrs. 23/5. Enemy air activity. Nil.
Air activity today restricted by very bad visibility and intermittent rain and squalls.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/23).

Enemy Wreck, UNION to sink.

Derelict enemy ship funnel aft reported in position 1950. Panterllaria 18 miles. Approach by day only and sink, using caution since salvage may be attempted and M.A.S. in the vicinity.
(Capt. S.1. 1605B/23 Cdr. S.1. 1705B/23 to UNION.)

SALZBURG German.

1800 tons passed Istanbul for Aegean 1130 G.M.T. half loaded. Description. Speed 9 knots.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1730/23 to Cairo).

Signals Compromised.

Key Memorandum S.P. 02292J believed compromised as result of loss of aerodrome in Crete. It is intended to retain J Series of Key Momoranda in force but with a new scramble. It is not possible however to promulgate new scramble to all stations until 1/6. In meantime use any emergency recognition procedure you desire on Mediterranean Station.
(D.S.D. 1842B/23 to C. in C. Med).

LEANDER.

Your 0125/23. Mr. Fraser has approved the employment of LEANDER in Mediterranean and is cabling his Government accordingly.
(C. in C. Med., 1843C/23 to Admty).

A/C Reports of Enemy Convoys.

Reply to Admty 1145B/22. Action taken.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2358B/23) See Lion Copy.

/Suez Canal.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

Suez Canal. — Situation report. Ships swept over suspected mines without incident. About six ships each way daily are being handled.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1901C/23).

German Attack On Crete.

Policy — Following for Cs. in C, Med., and M.E. from Chiefs of Staff, No, 113. Our information of situation in Crete is presumably much less than yours. Will Cs. in C. send urgently an appreciation of situation in order that we may assess measures necessary to ensure its retention. For moral as well as purely military reasons it is of utmost importance that present German offensive should be repulsed.
(1st S.L. 0028B /23 to C. in C. Med).

Force A. — C. in C. Med's 1950C/22. Force A (? part company) and give cover to Westward of Kithera (C.S.15 0029C/23 to C.S.7).

Bombardment of Maleme. — Following has been read: (?M2305) GBC would like harassing fire on Maleme to be carried out in conjunction with this operation III. Bombardment area from coast to one mile inland between parallels 23.47 E to 2349.E. (Suda Bay., 0045/23 to Alexandria W/T and all British Warships.)

R.V. for D. 10. — Request R/V with you for the morning. Have not yet located FIJI. (Capt D.10 0048C/23 to F.O.7 C.S.)
Your 0048. Steer 090°. 15 knots for the present.
(F.O.7 C.S. 0148/23 to Capt. D.10).

/Force A.1.....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack On Crete. (contd).

Force A.l. — Force A.l. may be encountered during the night. (F.O.7 C.S. 0135/23 to HERO, DECOY).

AJAX
ORION. — E.T.A. with ORION 0600C/23.
(AJAX, 0223C/23 to R.A. Alexandria).

KIPLING
defect. — Have detached KIPLING to Bassein with defective steering. Request R/V for her.
(Capt. D.5., 0255/23 to F.O.7 C.S. F.O.15 C.S)

KELVIN
sweep. — Ref. 2155C/22 from C.S.7 and ref. 2345/22 from S.E.N.C. Suda Bay. Kisamo and Canea Bay swept. Very's light and small flares observed in 035° 31' N 023° 50' E. No diversity of shipping. Am retiring to S.W. of Crete. (KELVIN, 0300C/23 to C. in C. Med).

D.5
Bombarding. — Am bombarding myself now.
(Capt D.5. 0407/23 to JACKAL).

Withdrawal to
Alexandria. — All forces withdraw towards Alexandria forthwith. (C. in C. Med., 0408/23 to F.O.7th C.S. Capt. (D) 5, Capt (D) 14.)
My 0408 does not apply to GLENROY's Force.
(C. in C. Med., 0428C/23 to GLENROY, COVENTRY)
My 0408. Join F.O.C.7th C.S.
(C. in C. Med., 0430/23 to Capt. (D) 10, JAGUAR, DEFENDER).

Milo Report. — Military Y reports picking up wireless message Italian Armed Trawler crew at Milo to stand by.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0530/23, to C. in C. Med).

/KIPLING.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack On Crete. (contd).

KIPLING	Steering defect made good F.C.& S 034° 50' N 023° 18' E 118° 30 knots. (KIPLING, 0610/23 to F.O.7 C.S., F.O.15 C.S.).
JAGUAR	Return to Alexandria. (F.O.7 C.S. 0625/23 to JAGUAR, Capt D 10). C.S.7 0625/23. JAGUAR and DEFENDER join C.S.7. (C. in C. Med., 0710C/23 to JAGUAR, DEFENDER).
KELLY KASHMIR sunk.	KELLY and KASHMIR dive bombed in position 020° 34° N., 24° E. 44. (KIPLING, 0802/23 to C.S.7). My 0802. Both ships hit and sunk. (KIPLING, 0806/23).
KIPLING damaged.	Ship damaged by collision with wreck. (KIPLING, 0816/23, to C.S.7). Request immediate assistance my position 015° 34° N., 24° E. (KIPLING 0831/23 to C.S.7). KIPLING(position) picking up survivors. What help is being sent.? (Capt. D.5. 0922/23 to C.S.7). Following received 39 Sqdn., from a/c C-39 SQ. Crippled destroyer 20 miles south of western end of Crete, sned assistance against further air attack. Suggest long-nosed Blenheim. (R.A. Alexandria, 1000/23 to KIPLING) One undamaged destroyer will make the whole difference just now. (D.5. 1015/23 to C.S.7).
Situation on shore.	No seaborne enemy managed to land night 22/23. At Retimo and Heraklion situation satisfactory. At Maleme aerodrome is in enemy hands but under fire. Bombardment by naval units last night most useful. Regret your serious loss. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1001C/23 to C. in C. Med).

/Withdrawal to.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack On Crete. (contd).

Withdrawal to Alexandria.	All forces return to Alexandria at best possible speed. GLENROY's force is to continue to Tymbaki for the present. (C. in C. Med., 1015C/23 to Med, Fleet).
KIPLING	It is hoped to provide Blenheims for protection KIPLING shortly. (C. in C. Med., 1024C/23 to Med Fleet.)
KELVIN JACKAL	Keep well to the southward. (C. in C. Med., 1026C/23 to KELVIN, JACKAL).
Maleme Recco.	Following received 39th Sqdn., from a/c G.39 Sq. Recco carried out. No shipping in Maleme 50 plus enemy aircraft Maleme. (C. in C. Med., 1045/23).
D.5. KIPLING.	My p.c. & s. 015° 34° N., 24° E., 43, 120° 18 knots. Request Destroyer may be sent to meet KIPLING after dark or search for survivors (D.5. 1049/23, to C. in C. Med). Am leaving the matter of KIPLING in your hands except for asking Blenheim protection for him as I am unaware of situation. (C. in C. Med., 1123C/23 to C.S.7). Your 1123 to R.A. 7th C.S. Have decided not to send anyone back to KIPLING unless you order me to do so. Suggest KIPLING be ordered to R/V with (?GLENROY). (R.A. 15 C.S. 1325C/23 to C. in C. Med., R.A. 7 C.S.)
GLENROY.	GLENROY and escort return to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 1127C/23 to GLENROY, COVENTRY)
JAGUAR -DEFENDER.	My 1324C/22 Detach JAGUAR and DEFENDER to arrive Suda Bay 2359/23 unload ammunition and sail for Alexandria at 0230/24 at latest, making passage between Suda Bay and Kaso Straits both ways at best possible speed. (C. in C. Med., 1207C/23 to C.S.7).

/Air Attack.....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd).

Air Attack on Suda M.T.B.'s — Heavy M/G attack at 1230 on dockyard by fighters was concentrated on M.T.B.'s who are now all out of action.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay., 1347Z/23 to C. in C. Med)

KASHMIR survivors left. — Following received. C. in C. Med from Capt. D.5. Feared a few isolated survivors from KASHMIR had to be left in position 014° 34° N., 24° E., 58 owing to persistent bombing. Request Flying Boat may search vicinity.
(Nore W/T, 1500/23 to Whitehall W/T).

Capt. D.5. KIPLING. — Report situation are you making for Alexandria if so what speed? Is Capt. D.5. on board? Where are KELVIN and JAGUAR?
(C. in C. Med., 1508/23 to KIPLING).

Air Protection for D.5. — Your 1335/23 Blenheims are on their way.
(C. in C. Med., 1510/23 to Capt. D.5.)

GLENROY order from Admty. — GLENROY and escort turn to northwards pending further instructions.
(1st S.L. 1559B/23 to C. in C. Med).
Comply with Admty 1559B/23.
(C. in C. Med., 1852/23 to COVENTRY) See also 1837, 2146, and 2237/23.

a/c from 7th C.S. — Your aircraft arrived.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1649C/23 to F.O.7.C.S.)

Op. Sum. No. 347 up to 1200 hrs. 23/5.

Benghazi bombed. — Night May 21/22. 2 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour, bombs bursting on the Cathedral Mole near the seaplane station.

APHIS escort. — 22/5. 1 South African Hurricane on patrol over APHIS intercepted 6 JU 87's off Sidi Barrani and destroyed 2.

Crete.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd).

Crete. Ops. Summary No. 347 (contd).
22/5 Blenheim reconnaissance reported convoy of small craft making for Maleme and Heraklion convoy later attacked by H.M.Ships, which destroyed some and dispersed remainder. Estimated total 100 troop carrying aircraft landed Maleme Beach at 5 minute intervals bringing large reinforcements troops and equipment. Fighting continued at Maleme from dawn where our troops counter-attacked but were forced to withdraw by enemy ground fire and low-flying machine gun and bombing attacks. Enemy dropped supplies at Heraklion including guns and ammunition, which were seized by our troops. Situation at Retimo and Heraklion satisfactory. During day enemy dropped some bombs on Canea and Suda Bay. H.M.Ships bombarded enemy positions Maleme during night May 21 /22. 12 Blenheims bombed same area at dawn 22/5. Since 20/5, 16 troopcarriers have been shot down by A.A. fire at Heraklion. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1657/23).

Policy. Your 10150/23. T.L. entirely agree with your 16550/22 to Mediterranean Fleet, and every endeavour must be made to implement this policy again tonight. Reply to your 10430/23 follows.
(1st S.L., 1756B/23 to C. in C. Med).

KIPLING R.V. with PROTECTOR. Capt. (D) 5. in KIPLING expected to arrive 153° searched Channel 0900/24 with probably no fuel remaining. Sail to R/V with KIPLING in 031° 30' N 028° 56' E at 0600/24 to act under orders of Capt. (D) 5.
(C. in C. Med., 18210/23 to PROTECTOR).
Well done. PROTECTOR is sailing to R.V. you in 031° 30' N 028° 56' E at 0600/24 to act under your orders. Alter R.V. if you wish.
(C. in C. Med., 1823C/23 to Capt. D.5).

Italian Convoy JAGUAR. My 12070/23. It is possible you may meet an Italian convoy in Sitia area tomorrow morning /24.
(C. in C. Med., 1825C/23 to JAGUAR).

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack On Crete. (contd).

Operation cancelled.

Morgans party tonight is cancelled.
(N.O.I.C. Suda, 1827C/23 to Capt. Macdonald).

GLENROY.

My 1852 and Admty 1559/23. It is much too late for GLENROY to reach Tymbaki tonight 23rd as she was turned back at 1130 after consulting C. in C. Middle East. 1837C/23 to Adty.
Your 1837C/23 understood. Presume you are taking necessary action to postpone arrival of GLENROY by 24 hours.
(V.C.N.S., 21468/23 to C. in C. Med).

FIJI,
KELLY,
KASHMIR.

FIJI sunk in 036 35° N., 23° E., 35 at 1920/22 by dive bomber. KELLY and KASHMIR sunk by dive bombers in 020 34°N 24° E., 44 at 0802. Survivors include Capt. (D) 5 in KIPLING who was damaged in collision with wreck and reduced to 20 knots now making for Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 19150/23 to Admty).

Raids on Suda, LOGICIAN hit.

Several further heavy raids on Suda Bay. LOGICIAN hit. Military holding defensive position east of Maleme. Field guns have been lost. Retimo no change. Heraklion further enemy landings. Blenheims gave great encouragement.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1937/23 to C. in C. Med).

Capt. D.5.

Your 1826. Are you all right?
(C. in C. Med., 1948/23 to Capt. D.5).
Your 1948/23 O.K. Thankyou.
(Capt. D.5. 2016/23 to C. in C. Med).

KOS 19
AETOS
CHERRYLEAF.

Return to Alexandria with oiler CHERRYLEAF and AETOS. Inform AETOS accordingly.
(R.A. Alexandria, 2015C/23 to KOS. 19).

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET.

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23.5.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack On Crete. (contd).

Situation. — Summary of events since his 1810/22. (C. in C. Med., 2121/23 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

Return to Alexandria. — WARSPITE, VALIANT and light force E.T.A. Alexandria 0430C/24 from North West. (Capt. 3.1. 1350/23 to TETRARCH).

JAGUAR DEFENDER. — Providing disembarkation of ammunition and fuel situation allows you are at liberty to employ JAGUAR and DEFENDER to attack enemy convoy should (?patrol) be reported approaching the coast during night 23rd. If such action is taken they should lie up at Suda Bay during daylight rather than attempt withdrawal from Suda Bay through Kaso Strait in daylight hours.
(C. in C. Med., 22270/23 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

GLENROY, COVENTRY, ABDIEL. — Your 1559B/23. I could only infer that you were in possession of information I had not received and accordingly directed COVENTRY to proceed to northward. Movements of GLENROY and escort had been most carefully considered and her operation orders enabled her to take the maximum advantage of dark hours. Her withdrawal was ordered in consultation with C. in C. M.E. after a further plan for reinforcement of Crete by ABDIEL and/or destroyers had been decided on. I propose if GLENROY continues to proceed to northwards in accordance with your directions she will be in worst possible position for dive bombing and high level bombing attacks at daylight and disembarkation of troops during daylight hours under present air conditions is out of the question. In view of this I am ordering her to proceed to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 22370/23 to Admty).

/Damage.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack On Crete. (contd).

Damage. Report as soon as possible any spare parts not available at Alexandria which are required as result of recent action damage. (D.D.T.S.D. 2305B/23 to C. in C. Med).

GLENROY. Return to Alexandria forthwith. Acknowledge. (C. in C. Med., 2335/23 to GLENROY.)

East Indies.

Shipping, Persian Gulf. Re Navicerts etc. (C. in C. E.I. 0724Z/23). See Lion Copy.

Suez Mining. For N.C.S.O.'s. Possibility of enemy magnetic mines being dropped in Gulf of Suez. Masters are to be reminded to energise their D.G. coils according to latitude and avoid shallow waters as far as possible.
(C. in C. E.I., 0734Z/23 to E.I. Stn.)
My 0734/23 is being passed to you. Request adjacent stations will conform.
(C. in C. E.I., 0756Z/23 to C. in C. China etc

Guardafui Light. For N.C.S.O's. My 1126/18/3 para. 1, and Q.C.A. 208. Although Cape Guardafui Light has been taken over by British Crews it cannot yet be guaranteed reliable.
(C. in C. E.I. 0738Z/23 to E.I. Stn).
My 0738/23 is being passed to you for information of N.C.S. Officers.
(C. in C. E.I. 0854Z/23 to C. in C. China etc.)

GLASGOW. Will be at 12 hours' notice from 2000/23 until 2000/27 for engine room repairs.
(C. in C. E.I., 0918Z/23 to Admty).

/COLOMBO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

COLOMBO.

My 1040/20 not to Admiralty and N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar. COLOMBO is to escort troop ship(s) to destination. (C. in C. E.I., 1224Z/23 to COLOMBO).

Protection of Shipping.

Gulf of Suez and Shatt-el-Arab. Proposals (C. in C. E.I., 1400Z/21 to Admty). See Lion Copy.

Convoy C.M.9.

My 0920/20. Destination Berbera. S. of A. 14½ knots. Sailing daylight/24. (Div. .S.T.O. Mombasa 1350Z/23 May).

KINGSTON. Saudi Arabia territory.

Request you will see Minister Jeddah's telegram to F.O. of 28 or 29/4 re violations of Sudia Arabia Territory on 3/4. KINGSTON did fire a torpedo as alleged, which was in accordance with a.m. 0135/2/3. So far as Fleet Air Arm is concerned there is no foundation for the other allegation. (C. in C. E.I., 1722Z/23 to Admty).

China.

CHENON CEAUX (French).

Your 0757Z/22. Can you obtain description of raider and date and position of interception in order to determine whether she was No. 33. (D.D.I.C. 1823B/23 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

Indo-China.

Rubber question. Decisions on 0381/8 and subsequent signals. (Head of M., 1932B/23 to C. ih C. China) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.5.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

St. John's N.F. Resources.	Your 1840B/21 and ref. 2018Z/21 from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. St. John's N.F. harbour cannot safely hold more than maximum of 10 ships moored in stream. (Berthing Details.) Space for more than the above would be most difficult to arramge with any security of tenure. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 0203Z/23 to Admty).
Base Proposals.	Details of arrangements for use of St. John's as advanced base for convoy escort forces operating in North Atlantic. (V.C.N.S., 1939B/23 1940B/23 to C. in C's C.N.S., Ottawa, etc). See Lion Copy.
SHEHERAZADE (French).	Your 1001/21. SHEHERAZADE is special case and no decision as to seizure of requisition can be given pending consultation with U.S. To avoid risk of damage to this valuable ship the whole crew should be removed on arrival. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0621B/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Axis Ships, Black Sea.	Following from State Dept. From copy dated 15/5. A minimum of 12 large ocean-going ships are available to Axis in Black Sea; 8 German 2 Italian and 2 Roumanian. On 13/5 4 German ships left (Constantza?) for Salonica with petrol, munitions and small motor torpedo boats. (N.A. Washington, 1120/23 to Admty). Comment by N.I.D. On 15/5 only one German ship SALZBURG was left in Black Sea out of 8 originally there, the other 7 having passed into the Aegean between 16/4 and 15/5, and SALZBURG has now passed to the Aegean (21/5). There were 8 Italains (including 3 tankers) then in Black Sea, but 3 of these (including 1 tanker) have since passed into the Aegean. There are 18 Roumanians trading in Black Sea totalling 70,600 tons.

/Italian.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

Italian ships at Tampico.

Intercepted letter dated 12/5 from Master of Italian ship STELVIO states Italian Minister has ordered crews of Italian Ships at Tampico to be ready for immediate departure for Manzanillo.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1149Q/23 to R.O.?)

OTTAWA & RESTIGOUCHE.

Now on escort duty are to be based St. John's N.F. and have been ordered to proceed after being detached in approx 051° 00' N 024° 00' W. Estimated they will arrive about 31/5.
(C. in C. W.A., 12373/23 to C.N.S., Canada).

Convoy Code Words.

Your 1417Q/16. In view of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1643Z/15 and your 1732Q/16 concur in N.S.H.Q.'s proposal as no private ship in the convoy would be keeping W/T watch.
(D.T.D. 2026B/23 to C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Convoy Escorts.

Extension to 45° W. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2027/23)
See Shipping and Convoys.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Unknown Ship.

Received 0954 G.M.T. unknown source. 3333 heard once only on 600 metres STR 5 at 0950 No further pars.
(Burnham on Sea Radio. No T.O.O./23).

ELUSA (torpedoed 20/5).

N.O.I.C. Iceland's 1014/22. Present position of ELUSA 058° 30' 038° 10' drifting S.E. ½ knot. Bad hole No. 3 tank still floating fires out. Consider she could be towed in if weather remains favourable. In bad weather she will probably break in half but fore part with 6000 tons Diesel Oil should float.
(BURNHAM, 01362/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1014/22 and BURNHAM 01362/23 request you will sail ZWARTE ZEE and BUTTERMERE to tow in ELUSA.
(C. in C. W.A., 1716B/23 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

LASSELL (torpedoed 30/4.)

My 2157/16. Survivors from British Ship LASSELL state ship was torpedoed by U.22. Number was seen on port side of conning tower and all observers agreed U Boat was very small. If in fact U 22 consider must have either fuelled and probably supplied near the area either at sea which is most likely under a less unfrequented or in a Vich port. No evidence of latter except unconfirmed report last December. Survivors sailed in RUAHINE for U.K. 17/5 in S.L. 75 request further interrogation may be carried out on arrival.
(C. in C. S.A., 1057M/23 to Admty).

H.X. 126 (attacked 20/5).

U.S.C.G. Cutter NORTHLAND at 1100 G.C.T. 57.34 N 39.35 W searching for convoy survivors Request information nearby ships. NORTHLAND.
(Valentia, Radio, 1110/23 to Admty).

BRITISH SECURTIY (torpedoed 20/5).

Following from Navy Dept. From C.G. Vessel (?NORTHLAND) Abandoned tanker BRITISH SECURITY sighted 23/5 in 57° 25' N 40° 06' W. Identified by name on stern. Decks awash and evidence of gun fire around bridge and elsewhere. Paint scorched by fire except fore-castle. Ship had been torpedoed forward of bridge on port side.
(N.A. Washington, 1387/23 to Admty).

/RODNEY STAR.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

RODNEY STAR (torpedoed 16/5).

N.C.S.I. 69. (A) RODNEY STAR (B) 16/5 0550 G.M.T. 050 8' N 19° 15' W (C and D) dumped (E) Yes 2000 fathoms (G) Master, ship sunk by three torpedoes and 78 rounds gunfire submarine probably of U 37 Class. All passengers and crew left ship safely in four boats. Master's boat with 22 survivors arrived Freetown 21/5 but remaining 65 in three boats including Capt. Fothergill R.N. and nine survivors from CLAN OLGIVIE and BENWYVIS not yet accounted for.
(C. in C. S.A. 1612Z/23 to Admty).

PIAKO (torpedoed 18/5).

N.C.S.I. 69 PIAKO 18/5 2030 G.M.T. 07° 52' N 14° 57' W Re C.B.'s. Ship sunk by two torpedoes, submarine not seen, ten killed. 53 crew plus one DBS arrived Freetown 20/5. Two injured in Hospital ship.
(C. in C. S.A. 1614Z/23 to Admty).

STARCROSS (torpedoed 20/5).

Arrived ST. FRANCIS with 40 survivors from STARCROSS.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1628B/23 to Admty).

SAN FELIX (torpedoed 20/5).

S.S. SAINT BENTIGERN reports SAN FELIX badly holed. Attempting to reach St. John's N.F. 1255/23 (Ends).
(N.O.I.C. St. John's 1911Z/23 to Admty).

PUTNEY HILL (mined 9/5).

British ship PUTNEY HILL reports U Boat attacks 9/5 (?007°) N 022° 41' W 2 torpedoes passed 300 feet ahead. Ship zigzagged on table 20 at time of attack. 5 hours later intercepted message as follows no addressee (beings) EKIS BOKOS AJYSS AJROU GUYG IPEF (ends).
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 2130/23 to Admty etc).

Submarines Reported.

1028

1028/23 German U Boat bearing 327° 2nd Class 11125 kcs. (F.O.C.N.A. 1057/23 to PANDORA).

1057

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1057/23. Estimated position of German U/Boat was approx 54° N. 30° - 40°
(D.D.I.C. 2140B/23 to PANDORA.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By VERBENA BURNHAM, 21/5.	Your 0827Z/22 (a) 14600 (b) 8200 (c) last round near miss (d) 145° 6700 (e) Two by BURNHAM four by VERBENA air and oil claimed by VERBENA (f) BURNHAM, 18 VERBENA 1 S/M was of BATHORY class. (BURNHAM 1130Z/23 to S.O. 12 Escort Group). If no further contact intend abandoning hunt at 1600/23 and returning to Reykjavik with VERBENA both ships getting (?short) of oil. (BURNHAM, 1146Z/23 to C. in C. W.A. etc).
By a/c	Aircraft of No, 19 EFTS Duty K. Following message has been read: Have attacked enemy with 3 bombs level in position 46° 8' N 1° 15' W. Am returning to base, engine trouble may be force to land without further signal. (? 1428/23).

MOST SECRET

24.5.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN

Orders for 18th & 2nd C.S.

About midnight orders were sent to MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA (on patrol S.E. of Iceland) and GALATEA and HERMIONE (in the Faroes-Orkneys passage) to R/V 30 miles E. of Langanaes, in readiness to form a patrol line in the event of the enemy breaking back.
The orders for MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA were cancelled at 2101B and they were instructed to proceed to Hval Fiord and fuel.

Enemy sighted

At 0543B today HOOD in position 13° 63' N 32° W., 21 miles (63° 21' N., 31°45' W) sighted an enemy battleship and a cruiser bearing 337° 17 miles.
PRINCE OF WALES had sighted an unknown vessel at 0537B, and at 0544B she reported a battleship and a cruiser bearing 325° distance 14 miles course 230°.

HOOD Sunk

HOOD opened fire on BISMARCK at 0553 23000 yards and PRINCE OF WALES at 0553½ BISMARCK engaged HOOD and PRINCE EUGEN the PRINCE OF WALES.at
At 0615 F.O.I.C.S. reported that HOOD had blown up and sunk in 63° 20' N., 31° 50' W PRINCE OF WALES at 0725B had her bridge and guns out of action and about 400 tons of water in the ship; her speed was reduced to 27 knots. Half an hour later SUFFOLK reported that the enemy battleship's speed was reduced and she appeared to be damaged and on fire.

8

It is reported that BISMARCK's secondary armament was effective at 20000 yards.

Situation 0630.

At 0630 C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with REPULSE, VICTORIOUS, AURORA, KENYIA and 9 destroyers was believed to be about 200 miles South of Iceland (c) and about 230 miles to Eastward of the enemy.

/RODNEY.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

BISMARCH & PRINZ EUGEN-Contd.

RODNEY, escorting BRITANNIC with personnel for Canada was about 520 miles W. of Bloody Foreland. At 1022B she was ordered to steer the best course to close the enemy.

RAMILLIES at 1144 was ordered to proceed to make contact with the enemy from the westward (RAMILLIES at 1100B was in 45° 45' N., 35° 40' W.) She was to endeavour to avoid action unless BISMARCK was already engaged.

C.S

1st C.S. Shadowing.

F.O.1st C.S. in NORFOLK with SUFFOLK, PRINCE OF WALES close astern continued to shadow the enemy throughout the day. Course was south-westerly until 1330, when the enemy altered course to southward. BISMARCK reduced speed progressively from 28 to 22 knots.

VICTORIOUS' Aircraft attack.

At 1455B C. in C. H.F. reported that VICTORIOUS, escorted by F.O.C. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA, with HERMIONE, KENYA and AURORA were being detached to launch a torpedo aircraft attack about 2200B within 100 miles range of the enemy (See 25/5)

Second short engagement.

At 1830 when PRINCE OF WALES engaged again the BISMARCK turned to the westward and the engagement was broken off in order to avoid forcing the BISMARCK further away from the C. in C. H.F. who was some 200 miles to the Eastward.

/Situation....

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

BISMARCK & PRINZ EUGEN-Contd.

Situation at 1800/24.

Position of enemy 59° 10' N., 36° 00' W. Course 180° speed 24 knots.
NORFOLK, SUFFOLK and PRINCE OF WALES still in touch.
C. in C's estimated position at 1800 58° 00' N., 30° 00' W.
KING GEORGE V, REPULSE, VICTORIOUS and 2 Cruisers.
C.S. 2. is in company with C. in C. H.F.
LONDON now in 42° 50' N., 20° 10' W., is proceeding at economical speed to close the enemy.
RODNEY 56° N., 29° W. with three or four destroyers has been ordered to steer best closing course.
RAMILLIES in estimated position 45° 45' N., 35° 40' W., has been ordered to place herself to the westward of the enemy.
MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA returning from North East of Iceland to Hval Fiord to fuel.
REVENGE left Halifax at 1505Z to overtake H.X. 128 and S.C. 32.
EDINBURGH in approx. position 45° 15' N., 25° 10'W has been ordered to close and take over stand by shadower.

Force H.

F.O.Force H in RENOWN with ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar at 0200 A today to join W.S. 8 B after daylight 26/5. At 2331B the Admiralty sent orders to Force H. to steer so as to intercept BISMARCK from the southward as the enemy must be short of fuel and will have to make for an oiler.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Coastal Convoys.

F.N. (M) and F.S. (M) convoys are to be reintroduced, for ships of not less than 7½ knots.

British Air Activity

Aircraft of Bomber Command today attacked shipping off the Dutch Coast and claim to have sunk a 2000 ton ship and hit a 2500 ton ship off Borkum and hit a 1500 ton ship off the Hague.

Enemy Air Activity

Trawler THOMAS STEPHEN was bombed and machine gunned at 2359 today east of Wick and had casualties but no damage to ship.

Convoy W.S. 8 B was attacked by a F.W. at 0825B today in 55° 37' N., 15° 6' W., ~~and~~ which may have been damaged by ships' fire. ABOSSO dropped astern with slight engine room damage but rejoined the convoy by noon.

SS SARNIA was damaged during air attack on the convoy anchorage at Milford Haven early this morning. Greek SS MATRONNA was sunk.

Mining.

Tanker OCTANE, in Southampton to Avonmouth convoy, was mined outside Falmouth this morning and was beached in St. Mawes harbour.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Enemy Convoy attacked by UPHOLDER. CONTE GRANDE Believed sunk.

At 2042B UPHOLDER reported 3 very large troop transports and an unknown number of destroyers in 36° 45' N., 15° 42' E., steering south at 18 knots. UPHOLDER secured 2 hits on a liner and has expended all her torpedoes.
The ship which was hit is considered to be CONTE GRANDE (23,681 tons) and it is thought she sank. UPHOLDER was counter attacked with 90 depth charges, but received no damage.

C.D

Attack on Crete.

Destroyers leave Suda Bay.

At 0225 today S.B.N.O. Suda Bay reported that he had sailed the destroyers for Alexandria, as the scale of air attack on the harbour yesterday was such that their retention during daylight was not justified. There were no recent indications of enemy convoys and weather is deteriorating.

Bombardment of Maleme.

H.M. Ships bombarded enemy positions at Maleme last night; 9 Wellingtons bombed enemy aircraft on the beach and aerodrome in co-operation with the ships.

Heraklion

The Greeks were reported this morning to be holding Heraklion, but are very short of ammunition.

Enemy Operations

Enemy aircraft maintained heavy bombing and machine gun attacks on our troops in Maleme and Heraklion areas throughout the day. Troop carriers arrived in Crete throughout the day, bringing enemy reinforcements and stores. Stores were also dropped by parachute.

Reinforcements leave Alexandria.

DECOY, NIZAM, ISIS and HERO left Alexandria this morning with 600 special service troops to be landed at Sphakia on the S.W. coast of Crete during the night.

/Air.....

MOST SECRET

24.5.41.
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Attack on Crete-Contd.

Air Operations.

7 Hurricanes flew to Crete today. One was shot down by an M.E. 109, two are missing, and the remainder flew back. 9 Wellingtons bombed Maleme aerodrome; 3 of them are missing.

C. in C. M.E. reports Navy unable to prevent enemy landings.

C. in C. M.E. reported this evening that the scale of air attack has made it no longer possible for the Navy to operate in the Aegean or near Crete by day and to guarantee to prevent seaborne landings, without suffering losses which, added to those already sustained would very seriously prejudice our command of the Eastern Mediterranean. Crete can only be reinforced or supplied at night, by fast warships. There is little prospect of the R.A.F. stopping the movement of enemy shipping.

C. in C. Med's Signal to Fleet

At 1457, however, the C. in C. Med. had made a signal to the Mediterranean Fleet stating "AT whatever cost to ourselves we must keep the enemy from using the sea. We can and must outlast."

PERSEUS to patrol off Milo.

PERSEUS was ordered this evening to establish a patrol off Milo. The enemy are reported to be using the port as a port of assembly for troop carrying caiques bound for Crete.

Naval Sweep during night.

AJAX and DIDO with destroyers were ordered to pass through Kaso Straits as soon as possible after 2100 and sweep the north coast of Crete with the object of destroying any enemy embarkations.

/Military.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Attack on Crete-Contd.

Military Situation this evening.

C. in C. M.E. this evening estimated that the enemy may have upwards of 10,000 men in contact with our troops holding Canea and Suda.

Efforts to open the road Heraklion-Suda for passage of reinforcements to Suda have so far failed.

C5

Our forces at Canea and Suda are approximately equal to the enemy, though the latter has air supremacy. Our troops are tired. The food situation is giving anxiety and troops are on ¾ rations: 3 successive ships containing supplies have been sunk in Cretan waters.

It is considered that if the enemy can be prevented from recovering the use of Suda Bay his position may become critical.

8

Suez Canal

Enemy aircraft dropped mines and bombs on the Suez Canal Zone last night. The Canal is closed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Fitting of H/F. D/F in Convoys.

It has been decided that in order to fix a U-Boat making an E-sign relative to a convoy H/F W/T it is essential to fit H/F D/F at least one ship in each convoy, and preferably two.
It is not desired to interfere with the fitting of A.S.V. which is considered essential in every escorting vessel. To implement the above the following are my proposals. (Details)
(C. in C. W.A. 1155B/24 to Admty.)

Catapult Ships in Convoys.

9 Group's 1230/22. Naval catapult ships are being instructed that when in company with merchant ships fitted with aircraft the Naval catapult ship will control all aircraft in the convoy and will issue instructions as to the state of readiness at which the merchant ship aircraft is to be held. (A.C.N.S.T. 1252B/24)

A.A. Gun Defences.

Admty. 1737B/19. Following from Captain Ullring. Mentioned guns cannot be manned by present force. Landing doubtful. Propose as (?) more convenient 3 half inch Colt guns with W piecing tracer ammunition or 20 millimetre Hispano Suisse. N.N.L.O. has recently requested these from C. in C. R.N.N.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1509/23)

Movements

IRIS

Admiralty's 0036B/21. Intend to sail Cable Ship IRIS at 2030 today, to lay cable between Benbecula and Loch Scalpin. On completion about 2/6 IRIS proceed to Port Z.A. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1522B/24)

REVENGE

REVENGE is to proceed to overtake H.X. 128 at 14 knots. (V.C.N.S. 1917B/24)

/BEN MY CHREE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

BEN MY CHREE — Your 1037B/24. BEN MY CHREE is to remain in Faeroes until escort is available in accordance with A.M. 1956B/22 para 4. Workmen should not be embarked until escort arrangements have been made. (D.O.D. H. 2045B/24 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)

ARGUS — It is not now possible to provide cruiser escort escort for ARGUS to Gibraltar after she parts company with you. She must proceed without escort. (1st S.L. 2321B/24 to EXETER)

Operations

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER.

My 2359B. Enemy hidden in snow storm. My C. and S. 180° 29 knots. My position 065° 47' N., 027° 57' W. (SUFFOLK 0009/34)
No enemy in sight visibility 3 miles my position 65° 31' N., 27° 45' W., X.11. (NORFOLK 0017B/24)
Correct my 0009B to read my C. and S. is 180° 30 knots. (NORFOLK? 0019B/24)
My 0009B. My course is 200° visibility 1 mile. My position 065° 39' N., 028° 01' W. (SUFFOLK 0028B/24)
My P. C. and S. 065° 24' N., 028° 10' W. 200° 29 knots. (SUFFOLK 0101B/24 to NORFOLK)
If still complying with C. in C's 2042B/22 and in absence of other orders from him MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA should R/V in position 090° Langanaes 30 miles in readiness to form a patrol line in event of enemy breaking back. (1st S.L. 0120B/24)
My 0101. My P. C. and S. 220° 29 knots Visibility 2 miles. My position is 065° 12' N., 028° 33' W. X. 11. (SUFFOLK 0131B/24 to NORFOLK)
My P.C. and S. 64°49' N., 28° 16' W., 200° 29 knots. Estimated position by plot of enemy 269° 18 miles from me, vis 3 miles. (NORFOLK 0145B/23)

/If still.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER -Contd.

If still complying with C. in C. H.F. 2045B/22 and in the absence of other orders from him GALATEA and HERMIONE should proceed with all convenient despatch towards position 090° Langanaes 30 miles. (1st S.L. 0148B/24)
My course is 220° (NORFOLK 0220B/24)
My 0225B. Two ships bearing 192° 209 and 255 yards. More distant ship probably is Battleship. Enemys C. and S. 160° 20 knots. My position is 056° 44' N., 036° 5' W. Based on reference Position at -2000 (SUFFOLK 0229/25)
1 large vessel unknown bearing 298° distance 8 miles course unknown my position 64° 28'N 28° 36' W.X. 11. (NORFOLK 0229B/24)
My 0131B C. and S. 220° 29 knots vis 1 mile My position 064° 47' N., 029° 02' W., X11. (SUFFOLK 0230B/24)
Position German Battleship BISMARCK Class 0200B was 056° 40' N., 036° 18' W., course 160 speed 21 knots. (NORFOLK 0238B/25)
Surface craft detected by R.D./F bearing 180° 10 miles my position 064° 41' N., 029° 13' W., X 11 Based on fix at 11 0'clock. (SUFFOLK 0247B/24)
My 0229B. Vessel possibly SUFFOLK. Lost touch immediately in mist. (NORFOLK 0255B/24)
Two enemy ships detected by R.D/F, bearing 192° 9 miles, C. and S. 240° 28 knots. My position 064° 39' N., 029° 22' W. (SUFFOLK 0256B/24)
My 0229B No change. (SUFFOLK 0306B/25)
My 0256B/ Enemy ship bears 188° 11 and? 12 miles. Course and Speed 240° 28 knots. My position 064° 35' N., 029° 39' W.X. 11. (SUFFOLK 0319B/24)
1 Battleship 1 Cruiser bearing 185° 12 miles Course 240°. My position 166° 65°N 30° W., 26 X 11. (SUFFOLK 0321B/24)
2 unknown ships bearing 240° 12 miles course 240° Position 63° 10' N., 32° 10' W. A/C report. (Iceland W/T 0410Z/24)

/My 0410.....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER -Contd.

My 0410. Enemy previously reported are, 1 Battleship, 1 Battle Cruiser, P. C. and S. of enemy Battle Fleet 63° 6' N., 32° 33' W. course 222° speed 30 knots. (Iceland W/T 0420Z/24)
My 0321B. Enemy bears 184° 15 miles, course 220° My position 064° 10' N., 030° 40' W.X.11 From a fix at 11 0'clock. (SUFFOLK, 0447B/24)
Have you lost touch with enemy. (NORFOLK 0450/24 to SUFFOLK)
My 0447B. Enemy centre bears 196° 15 miles Enemy C. and S. 220° 28 knots. My position 058° 64° N., 31° W., 9 from a fix at 11 0'clock. (SUFFOLK 0456B/24)
Intend proceeding Westward on completion of oiling 0700. (LANCE 0515B/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 0456B. No change. My position 063° 55' N. 030° 55' W. X 11 From a fix at 110/C (SUFFOLK 0522B/24)
Enemy has altered course to port 30° (SUFFOLK 0533B/24)
1 large vessel (uncertain whether battleship or battle cruiser) bearing 334° distance 17 miles course unknown. My position 63° 20' N., 4° 28' W. based on Ref. position of the S.O. of a detached force. (PRINCE OF WALES 0537B/24)
My 0533B. Enemy altered course to starboard 30°. (SUFFOLK 0538B/24)
1 battleship bearing 280° distance 16 miles 220° my position 63° 39' N., 31° 10' W.X. 11 from a fix at 11 0'clock. (NORFOLK 0541B/24)
1 Battleship 1 Cruiser bearing 337° 17 miles course unknown. My position 013° 63° N., 3?° W. 21 based on reference position from S.O. of detached Force at 0000 (HOOD 0543B/24)
My 0537B. 1 Battleship 1 Cruiser bearing 325° distance 14 miles course 230°. (PRINCE OF WALES 0544B/24)
My 0541B. Enemy altered course to port (NORFOLK 0550B/24)

/HOOD.....

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HOOD has blown up in 063° 20' N., 031° 50' W. (F.O. 1st C.S. 0615/24)
STAB - ?? rejoining 062° 52' N., 035° 20' W 225° 12½ knots F.G. 63. (CHESHIRE 0615Z/24)
Enemy bears 207° 18 miles course 240°. My position 063° 36' N., 031° 33' W., (SUFFOLK 0629B/24 to NORFOLK)
My 0541B. One Battleship bearing 265° 17 miles. Course 240°. My position 63° 22' N., 31° 46' W. based on a fix at 1100. (NORFOLK 0629B/24 Read by Iceland W.T.)
HOOD sunk in 063° 21' N., 031° 47' W. Proceed search survivors. (C.S.1. 0637B/24 to destroyers in Company)
S.O. 1st C.S. 0637. My P. C. and S. 062° 46' N., 029° 52' W., 330° 28 knots. ANTHONY in company. (ANTELOPE 0655B/24 Read by Iceland W/T)
1 Battleship 1 Cruiser bearing 284° distance 17 miles course 240°. My position 63° 14' N., 32° 5' W. X 11 from a fix at 11 O'clock (NORFOLK 0656B/24)
Alter course to westward and wait until situation clear. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 0659Z/24 to CHESHIRE)
C.S.I. 0637B. My P. C. and S 063° 47' N., 031° 11' W., 217° 32 knots at 0700B. ECHO in company. (ELECTRA 0701B/24)
My position at 0712 was 063° 08' N., 032° 12' W. PRINCE OF WALES in company. PRINCE OF WALES has bridge out of action and Y Turret temporarily out of action. Enemy bears from me 286° 18 miles her course 215° speed 28 knots. (F.O. 1st C.S. 0720B/24)
Following received from PRINCE OF WALES Begins. A. and B. turrest in action Y. turret 2 guns in action. About 400 tons water in ship mainly abaft after armoured bulkhead. Compartment above steering compartment flooded but sterring gear in action. Estimated best speed 27 knots. T.O.O. 0720/24 ends. (C.S. 1. 0725B/24 to Admty.)

Weather Forecast 0900/24 for 12 hours.

Duty Met. Officer 0736B/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

/My 0541B.....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER. -Contd.

My 0541B. Battleships C. and S. 210° 26 knots. She bears 290° 17 miles from me. Cruiser appears to be opening out, to starboard. My position 062° 56' N. 032° 28' W. (NORFOLK 0745B/24)
1 Battleship 1 Cruiser bearing 182° 18 miles course 200° My position 048° 63° N., 33° W., 15 miles based on a fix at 1100. (SUFFOLK 0756/24)
My 0756B. Enemy battleship reduce speed appears to be damaged on fire. My position is 063° 10' N., 032° 34' W., X 11 from a fix at 11 O/clock. (SUFFOLK 0757B/24)
Steer to the South Eastward. (D.O.D. H. 0814B/24 to CHESHIRE, ARABIS)
My 0757B. Enemy has altered course to starboard. (SUFFOLK 0814B/24)
My position 0800B. 061° (? 09' 45' 17')N. 022° 08' W., closing you at 27 knots. 2nd C.S. in company. (C. in C. H.F. 0825/24 to C.S.1. PRINCE OF WALES)
My 0814B. Enemy course is 200°. (SUFFOLK 0826B/24)
1 Battleship bearing 193° 18 miles.
1 Cruiser bearing 195° 19 miles
Course 200°. My position 63° 3' N., 32° 37' W., from a fix at 11 O'clock. (SUFFOLK 0837B/24)
Proceed with all despatch to form a patrol line North of Langanes. MANCHESTER is to take charge. (D.O.D. H. 0839B/24 to MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, ARETHUSA)
AMARAPOORA keep steam at 2 hours notice (A.C.O.S. 0851/24)
My 0745B. Enemy is making large alterations of course. (NORFOLK 0900B/24)
Am proceeding to refuel at Hvalfiord IGARUS, ECHO, ACHATES, ANTELOPE and ANTHONY in company. Only 3 survivors found. (? ELECTRA 0901B/24 to C.S.1.)
Proceed with BRITANNIC and screen at best speed on a course 290° (1st S.L. 0903B/40 to RODNEY)

/Intend.....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER -Contd.

Intend landing the following sole survivors from HOOD at Reykjavik. Midshipman W.J.Dundas (corrupt group) Robert Tilburn, O/Signalman Briggs. (ELECTRA 0906B/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 0541B. 1 Battleship bearing 290° distance 20 miles approx. true course 240° my position 62° 32' N., 33° 6' W., based on Admiral ref. pos. at 0800. (NORFOLK 0906B/24)
My 0826B. Enemy's Centre bears 202, distant 20. Enemy's C. and S. 205, 28 knots. Position 108° 63° N., 34° W. 11 R. 08. (SUFFOLK 0909B/24)
My 0909B. enemy speed is 26 knots. (SUFFOLK 0932B/24)
Sunderland reports survivors 062° 58' N., 032° 10' W., (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0943/24 to MALCOLM, ANTHONY)
Assume complete readiness for action against aircraft. (NORFOLK 0954B/24 to SUFFOLK)
1 Battleship bearing 285° distance 20 miles approx. course 230° My position 62° 16' N., 33° 41' W. Based on Admirals 0800 ref. pos. (NORFOLK 1001B/24)
Main Armament Control undamaged 9 main Armament guns in action, Secondary Armament guns in action. Considerable damage to bridge. Both forward H.A. directors out of action. About 600 tons water in ship mainly aft from 2 or more hits about water line. Estimated max. speed 26 knots. Oil fuel made readily available 1600 tons. (PRINCE OF WALES 1007B/24)
My 0932B. Enemy's Course is 215° (SUFFOLK 1016B/24)
Enemy's estimated P.C. and S. at 0900B/24 62° 25' N., 33° W., 210° 26 knots. Steer best closing course. (1st S.L. 1022B/24 to RODNEY)
My 1016B. Enemy is altering course to starboard 30° Enemy Battleship. (SUFFOLK 1029B/24)

/If BRITANNIC....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER.

If BRITANNIC cannot keep up leave her behind with one destroyer. (1st S.L. 1036B/24 to RODNEY)
My 1029B. Enemy Battleship has altered 30° to Port. (SUFFOLK 1037/24)
My 1037B. One enemy battleship, one enemy cruiser bearing 214 17 miles course 215 My position 62° 26' N., 34° 23' W., based on Ref. position Admiral 0800. (SUFFOLK 1044B/24)
My 1044B. Enemy's speed 24 knots. (SUFFOLK 1045B/24)
My 0541B. Enemy battleship and cruiser bear 273° 18 miles. Enemy zigzagging. His mean course and speed 220° 24 knots My position 62° 2' N., 34° 21' W. R.08. C.N. 978. (NORFOLK 1057B/24)
Continue to shadow BISMARCK even if you run out of fuel in order that C. in C. may catch up in time. (1st S.L. 1126B/24 to C.S. 1.)
Estimated P.C. and S. of BISMARCK at 1100B/24. 62° 17' N., 35° W. 215° 24 knots
Proceed so as to make contact with enemy from the westward, thereby placing enemy between RAMILLIES and C. in C. H.F. (1st S.L. 1144B/24 to RAMILLIES)
MyC0541/B. 1 Battleship bearing 275° distance 18 miles approx true course 220° 61° 41' N., 34° 52' W., R08. (NORFOLK.1205B/24)
Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. H.F. GALATEA and HERMIONE are to proceed to Faeroes and Fuel. (V.C.N.S. 1206B/24)
Visibility decreasing. (NORFOLK 1210B/24)
Negative enemy up to a distance of 12 miles. My position 265 62° N., 35° W.10 based on Admiral's 0800 ref. position. (SUFFOLK 1213B/24)
If visibility decreased try to maintain R/D.F. touch and inform me of enemies movements. (C.S. 1. 1216B/24 to SUFFOLK)
Plot of Sunderland on return appears to indicate NORFOLK's position accurate.
German Battleship BISMARCK leaving considerable wake of fuel oil.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1235/24 to C. in C. H.F)

/Situation....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER -Contd.

Situation at 1100B/24.
BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN 62° 17' N., 35° 00' W. course 215° speed 24 knots.
BISMARCK has received some damage.
C.S.1. in NORFOLK with PRINCE OF WALES and SUFFOLK are in touch with the enemy.
PRINCE OF WALES has two guns out of action.
HOOD blown up by unlucky hit.
2. C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORG V with REPULSE, VICTORIOUS, KENYA and AURORA may be about 230 miles to eastward of enemy's position.
3. RODNEY estimated 55° N., 24° 30' W., with three or four destroyers has been ordered to steer best closing course.
4. RAMILLIES in 45° 45' N., 35° 40' W., has been ordered to place herself to the westward of the enemy.
5. MANCHESTER is taking BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA under his orders and establishing a patrol line north of Langanaes, north east of Iceland (C).
6. C.S. 2. in GALATEA with HERMIONE is being ordered to fuel at Faeroes.
7. Force H. left Gibraltar 0200B/24 and is proceeding to the westward.
8. REVENGE is about to leave Halifax with orders to close enemy.
9. EDINBURGH in approx. 45° N., 21° W., has been ordered to close and take over stand by shadower.
10. Enemy battlecruisers were in Brest yesterday. (V.C.N.S. 1238B/24)
Close enemy last reported position 62° 02' 34° 58' mean course at 1124B/24 220° speed 24 knots, so as to take on relief shadower if necessary.
2. Fuel should be conserved reasonably while closing, and speed of 25 knots is suggested, but after contact no consideration of fuel must allow you to lose contact.
3. Report fuel remaining now if on contact it will be less that 30%.
(V.C.N.S. 1250B/24 to Commodore 18th C.S.)

/CHURCHILL...

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER -Contd.

CHURCHILL is to return to Iceland forthwith at best speed. CHURCHILL, BURNHAM are to await orders after fuelling.
(C. in C. W.A. 1259B/24)
One Battleship one Cruiser bearing 223° distance 8 miles Course 180° position 61° 17' N., 35° 36' W. based on Admirals reference position at 0800.
(NORFOLK 1323B/24)
My 1323B. 1 Battleship, 1 Cruiser bearing 225° distance 15 miles course 180° position 61° 12' N., 35° 26' W. based on reference Fix of Admiral at 0800.
(NORFOLK 1349B/24)
At 0500 1 BS and 1 BC in 62° 48' N., 33° 2' W. course 206° spd 30 knots, BS losing oil 0520 A/C signalled to NORFOLK "Can direct you to survivors" "NORFOLK replied "No" what is bearing of enemy! Bearing given as 216° T. NORFOLK replied "Thank you - DR will pick up HOOD survivors". 0530 signalled to base that BS and BC were BISMARCK and SCHEER in position 62° 36' N., 33° 14' W. CO 226° speed 30 knots. 0600 still in touch with enemy. 0625 visual signal from NORFOLK stating SUFFOLK reports enemy BS on fire. 0650 told NORFOLK that enemy CO 220° T speed 30 knots. No fire visible but BISMARCK losing oil 0705 signalled to NORFOLK "Am returning to base".
(A/C of 30 Wing 1410/24)
Your 1250B/24. My position 044° 17' N., 023° 56' W., 320° 25 knots. Assuming enemy steers 180°. Fuel remaining now 57% and on contact at 1900 to-morrow 38%.
(F.O.C. 18 C.S. 1430B/24 to Admty.)
A. Report as follows regarding BISMARCK:-
1. Percentage fighting efficiency remaining.
2. Ammunition expended.
3. Reason for frequent alterations of course.
B. Request your intentions as regards PRINCE OF WALES re-engaging.
C. Ref. A.T. 1412B/23, keep a good lookout for U-Boats.
(1st S.L. 1445B/24 to C.S.1.)

/Look out....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER -Contd.

Look out for U-Boats. (C. in C. H.F. 1453B/24 to C.S. 1., PRINCE OF WALES, SUFFOLK)
F.O.C. 2nd C.S. with 4 cruisers escorting VICTORIOUS within 100 miles of BISMARCK to launch torpedo aircraft attack about 2200B, my P. C. and S. are at 1500B/24 060° 3' N., 027° 56' W., 212° Speed 26 knots. (C. in C. H.F. 1455B/24 to F.O.C. 1st C.S.)
Sweeping 2 miles lanes to cover Area within 10 miles of 062° 58' N., 032° 10' W Sunderland reports HOOD Survivors. (MALCOLM 1512Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Iceland)
My 1323B/ 1 Battleship bearing 217 distance 17 miles course 180° position 60° 37' N., 35° 33' W., based on reference position on Admiral at 0800. (NORFOLK 1514B/24)
Reference position of Admiral at 1531. Position 602 9 position 35 45 Your reference position 1531 based on the Admiral was position 60 25 position 36 38. (C.S. 1. 1546B/24 to SUFFOLK)
Your 1300/24. Resume southerly route order to near Greenland coast. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1558/24 to CHESHIRE)
Surface craft detected by R.A.F. bearing 140° 10 miles. My position 60° 9' N., 36° 5' W., reference position at 0800. (SUFFOLK 1609B/24)
My 1609B. 2 ships detected. (SUFFOLK 1616B/24)
Your 1445B.
(a) (i) Uncertain but high.
(ii) Engagement 20 minutes also some rounds at cruisers, about 150 expended.
(iii) Unaccountable except as effort to shake us off.
(b) Consider PRINCE OF WALES should not re-engage until other heavy ships are in contact unless interception fails.
Doubtful if she has speed to force action. (C.S. 1. 1619B/24 to Admty.)

/My 1616B.....

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My 1616B. Enemy course 180°. Speed 24 knots. (SUFFOLK 1642B/24)
My 1323B. Have lost touch with enemy Battle Fleet, visibility 8 miles. My position 59° 56' N., 35° 44' W., R.16 180° 23 knots.,(NORFOLK 1652B/24)
1721/24. 1 Battleship 1 Cruiser bearing 160° distance 16 miles course 180° position 59° 50' N., 36° 15' W., based on a bearing obtained from Admiral at 1600. (SUFFOLK 1712B/24)
My position 256° NORFOLK 12 miles. (SUFFOLK 1716B/24 to NORFOLK)
My 1712B. Enemy centre bears 152° distance 16 miles from me. Enemies C. and S. 180° 24 knots Position 59° 43' N., 36° 15' W., based on bearing from Admiral at 1600. (SUFFOLK 1734B/24)
1. Part company with ARUNDEL CASTLE and destroyers.
2. Order them to proceed in execution of previous orders.
3. LONDON proceed at economical speed towards 55° N., 35° W. Your movements should be adjusted to close enemy and you should be prepared to take over shadowing duties. (A.C.N.S. H. 1756B/24 to LONDON)
Move over to within about 5 miles of me maintaining touch. (C.S. 1. 1823B/24 to SUFFOLK)
My 1734B. Enemy Centre bears 190 distance 10 from Battleship. Enemy Course 240° Position 342° 59° N., 36° W., 20 based on bearing from Admiral at 1600. (SUFFOLK 1839B/24)
One Battleship bearing 230 distance 18 miles course 180 my position 59° 11' N., 35° 32' W., based on bearing 16 miles from S.O. of Detached Force. (PRINCE OF WALES 1840B/24)
Decypher my 1238B/24. (D.S.O. 1853B/24 to LONDON)
1 Cruiser bearing 217 distance 12 miles course 180° my position 356 59° N., 36° W 2 OR 16. (SUFFOLK 1858B/24)

/Shadowing.....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER. -Contd.

Shadowing by NORFOLK and SUFFOLK has been admirable. Keep it up and Good Luck. (1st S.L. 1916B/24)
One cruiser bearing 215 distance 14 miles course unknown position 339 59° N., 36° W., 12 based on bearing from Admiral 1600 (SUFFOLK 1923B/24)
Enemy turned away when (engaged at 18 32 B) engagement was broken off to avoid forcing him further away from you. Am shadowing enemy from 232° distance 18 miles Enemy course 180°. My position 58° 54' N., 36° 10' W., R. 16. (C.S. 1. 1934B/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
One unknown bearing 215 distance 14 miles course 200° position 320 NORFOLK 6. (SUFFOLK 1937B/24)
No enemy in sight in area 220 and 300° distance 10 miles my position 320 59° N., 36° W., 8 reference Admirals fix 1600. (SUFFOLK 1939B/24)
One enemy Battleship bearing 241° distance 18 miles course 180 my position 58° 45' N., 36° 15' W., based on Admiral's reference position 1600. (NORFOLK 1957B/24)
Unless other orders have been received from C. in C. H.F. MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA are not to establish patrol ordered A.M. 0839B/24 but are to proceed to Hval Fiord and fuel. (1st S.L. 2010B/24)
U.S.A. Patrol Squadron No 52 (P.B.Y.) from Argantia, Newfoundland has been directed search area 500 miles S.E. Cape Farewell. (A.C.N.S. H. 2012B/24)
A.M. 1238/24. Situation report at 1800/24.
(a) Position of enemy 59° 10' N., 36° 00' W Course 180° speed 24 knots. NORFOLK, SUFFOLK and PRINCE OF WALES still in touch.
(b) C. in C estimated at 1800 58° 00' N., 30° 00' W. KING GEORGE V, REPULSE, VICTORIOUS and 2 Cruisers.
(c) C.S. 2 is in company with C. in C. H.F.
(d) LONDON now in position 42° 50' N., 20° 10' W., is proceeding at economical speed to close the enemy.
(e) RODNEY estimated 56° N., 29° W., with three or four destroyers has been ordered to steer best closing course.
(f) RAMILLIES estimated 45° 45' N., 35° 40' W has been ordered to place herself to the westward of the enemy.

/(g).....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER. -Contd.

(g) MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA returning from N.E. of Iceland to Hval Fiord to fuel.
(h) Force H left Gibraltar 0200B/24 and is proceeding to westward.
(i) REVENGE having just left Halifax is joining H.X. 128.
(j) EDINBURGH in approx. 45° 15' N., 25° 10'W has been ordered to close and take over stand-by shadower.
(V.C.N.S. 1023B/24)
My 1957B one Battleship bearing 241 distance 17 miles course 180. My position 2439 based on fix of Admiral at 1600.
(NORFOLK 2054B/24)
My 1455B/24. Enemy's speed appears to be 22 knots now. Enemy cruiser is probably to the Westward of enemy Battleship.
PRINCE OF WALES close astern of me, SUFFOLK on my starboard beam. (C.S. 1. 2106B/24)
At 0800B/25 P. C. and S. of VICTORIOUS for benefit of catapult aircraft. (C. in C. H.F. 2108B/24,2208/24, to R.A. 2 C.S.)
ELECTRA, ACHATES, ANTONY, ECHO, ICARUS, SAGUENAY, WINDSOR, Arrived.(N.O.I.C. Iceland 2142Z/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 1957B. Am still in touch with enemy. No change in situation since my 1957B. Position 58° 07' 36° 31. (NORFOLK 2151B/24)
Hope to engage from the eastward about 0900B/25. (C. in C. H.F. 2136/24)
Found oil and wreckage but no survivors. Returning for water and oil. E.T.A. 1230/25
(ANTELOPE 2200Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Iceland)
My 1957B. One enemy Battleship bearing 216° distance 16 miles course 180. My position 57° 53' N., 36° 34' W. based on a fix of Admiral's reference position at 1600 (NORFOLK 2231B/24)
My 2231. Enemy's speed 22 knots. (NORFOLK 2238B/24)
My 1939B One Enemy Battleship bearing 211 distance 15 miles one cruiser bearing 216 distance 16 miles course 180 my position 57° 55' N., 36° 27' W., based on fix of Admirals Reference position at 2000.
(SUFFOLK 2234B/24)

/You should....

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Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER -Contd.

You should endeavour to avoid action with BISMARCK unless the latter is engaged with other forces at the time. (1st S.L. 2320B/24 to RAMILLIES)
Your 1455B/24. Well done. Good luck. (1st S.L. 2326B/24 to C. in C. H.F.)
Enemy C. and S. are 160° 22 knots. (NORFOLK 2329B/24)
Steer so as to intercept BISMARCK from the southward. Enemy must be short of fuel and will have to make for an oiler. Her future movements may guide you to this oiler. (1st S.L. 2331B/24 to F.O. Force H.)
A.M. 0814B/24. Using your judgement, proceed in execution of previous orders. (1st S.L. 2338B/24 to CHESHIRE, ARABIS)

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British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Following air patrols being flown today.
TROST, STAB, BERT and R/C of Trondheim.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0110/24).
Second Hudson left 0150 to locate and shadow.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0201Z/24 to F.O. 1st C.S)
The following air patrols have been arranged for 24/5.
(1) (A) Patrol due north from Langanes 200 miles or to limit of ice if latter is closer. Patrol has been ordered to commence at 1100 but commencement at this time cannot be confirmed.
(B) Cross over patrol between Faroes and Iceland (c) from coast to coast on a line 320° from the Faroes. Patrol commences at 1300 from Iceland (c) coast.
(C) Cross over patrol between Shetlands and Faroes from coast to coast. Patrol commences at 1400.
(2) All patrols will be flown as long as aircraft are available.
(3) Additional long range aircraft are being concentrated at Sollum Voe and in Iceland.
(D.O.D.H. 0235B/24 to C. in C. H.F).
Air Patrols today. TROST, STAB, BERT, STAND, HORNLI, also special R/C's of Trondheim, Bergen and Stavanger. (C. in C. Rosyth 0240/25).
Keep C. in C. H.F. and other authorities at sea informed of any special air R/C or searches you may arrange for present operations. (D.O.D. H. 0300B/24 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).
2 Hudsons left to locate and shadow 0505.
Catalina left now. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0625/24 to C.S.1)
My 0110/24. Following additional patrols being flown today. A.M. HORLI, A.M. STAND also 3 Whitley a/c A/S Sweeps from Datum 5818 N. 0646 W. 5857 N. 0518 W. 318° to depth 260 miles. (C. in C. Rosyth 0952/24)
My 0952/24. A/S Sweep cancelled.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1428/24).
One Catalina Aircraft left 1411Z to locate and shadow. (N.O.I.C. Icleand 1416Z/24 to C.S.1).

/2 M/V's....

MOST SECRET.

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24.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

2 M/V's attacked off Ijmuiden.

Day 23/5. Aircraft attacked two Merchant Vessels of 6-8,000 tons each escorted by six E-Boats, about 4 miles West of Ijmuiden. Results not observed but one of M/V's was seen to be lower in the water with considerable smoke issuing from amidships after the attack. (H.Q.B.C. 0750/24).

EMPIRE MOON. Embarkation of A/C.

My 1120B/20/5. Aircraft will be embarked A.M/29 at Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1030B/24).

OPS 564 24/5. In the event of enemy breaking back to the east the following patrols have been ordered. N.W. from North Cape to Ice limit. 360° from Revsnaes to 200 miles or Ice limit. Faroes to Iceland. Faroes to Shetland. STAB, STAND, BERT, TROST and HORLI. P.R.U. Norge Ports and Kiel. (H.Q.C.C. 1615/24).

Barrage Balloons. Flying Heights.

A.258 24/5. C. in C. Portsmouth reports:- Owing to loss due to Air currents V.L.A. Balloons cannot be hauled close down in Portland Harbour during certain weather conditions and it will be necessary to fly Balloons at times up to 900 feet. Request that Pilots of Aircraft may be informed. Ends. This conflicts with Your X.904 19 May. Such unexpected uncontrollable and unnotifiable obstructions menace flying safety and may affect local operations. This is serious as same difficulty is liable to arise at all the many ports and anchorages round our coastline at which ships with Balloons may call. Appreciate difficulty of controlling these Balloons at 300 feet in adverse weather conditions but in flying interests recommend consideration be given to organising alternatives of removing them from ships in such weather conditions Request urgent action. (H.Q.F.C. 1920/24 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

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24.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

MATRONNA (Greek, 2846 Tons) sunk. SARNIA (British 711 tons) damaged.	One enemy aircraft attacked ships in convoy anchorage at 0500 this morning S.S. MATRONNA hit and sunk. S.S. SARNIA near miss and suffered considerable internal damage. No casualties except one man from MATRONNA slightly injured. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1002B/24). Position of wreck of S.S. MATRONNA. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1528B/24).
A/C over Orkneys.	At 1429 enemy aircraft approached Hoy from S.W, flew over Flotta, and out over Deerness in N.E.ly. direction. Height 7000 feet. Fighters up but failed to intercept. Unlikely enemy aircraft saw into Flow. (A.C.O.S. 1530/24).
Convoy.	Fighter assistance required by Convoy Mission in 52° 59' N. 1° 53' E. (WALLACE 2154/24).
Lowestoft bombed.	Reference CAFO 587/40 Lowestoft. Bombed by single A/C at 2024B. A.B.C. Nil D. Brookes Shipyard and Oulton Oil Depot hit 15% damage. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2345B/24).

Mining.

Milford Haven. Gear in TYNEDALE.	S.A. gear fitted in TYNEDALE successfully exploded mine off Milford Haven yesterday. Details. (TYNEDALE 0941/24).
Operation B.S. 62.	Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 0500/27 and take departure from Flamborough Head at 1000 for initial position. Laying will begin at 1400. Return to Flamborough and thence to Humber. (TEVIOT BANK 1343B/24).

/Aberdeen.....

MOST SECRET.

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24.5.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Aberdeen Channel. — Your 1755B/22 and My 0103/17. Dredging for electric cable ends is continuing but so far without satisfactory result except that a considerable amount of silt is being removed. Intend continuing this operation -with a view to reducing amount of silt now covering obstructions and countermining them when located. Do not anticipate requiring further assistance. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1532/24 to Adty.).

B.S. 57. — Owing to increase in rate of tidal streams as springs approach making navigation more difficult am postponing operation until approx 1/6. (C. in C. Nore 1838B/24).

OCTANE. — (British Tanker, 2034 Tons) Mined in 50° 7' 57" N. 5° 1' 30" W. at 1924/24 Probably Acoustic. Ship beached in St. Mawes Harbour. Casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2121/24).

Enemy Intelligence.

Bay of Biscay. Enemy A/S Patrol. — SOKOL reports constant A/S Patrol by fishing trawlers CHASSEURS and E Boats near 046° 45' N. 004° 46' W. (F.O.S. 1449B/24 to Admty. 1520B to SEAWOLF, STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S. 8X. NEPTUNE.

Your 2236B/19 para. IV.B. A/A Escort can be provided in Irish Sea. In view of your 1548?B/22 no onward A/A escort is available. Propose NEPTUNE be accepted as A/A Escort. (C. in C. W.A. 1123B/24 to Admty.)
Your 1123B/24. Concur (D.O.D. H., 1815B/25) R.V. and Secret Positions. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1310B/24) See Lion Copy.
A.M. 2236B/19. Para. 1. It is confirmed that convoy W.S. 8X will leave U.K. 27/5. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD from Clyde will join convoy. Para. 3 ESPERANCE BAY from Clyde will also proceed with convoy until A/S escort leaves. Thence she is to proceed independently to Freetown unless she can maintain speed of convoy. (D.O.D.(H) 1728B/24 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. etc).

B.H.X. 129.

Due to leave Bermuda today 24/5. Is not being sailed pending further instructions. (C. in C. W.A. 1222Q/24 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, etc).

F.N. (M) and F.S. (M) Convoys Revived.

As result of experience F.N. (M) and F.S.(M) convoys are to be re-introduced but will be for ships of a speed of not less than 7½ knots instead of 8 knots. The E.C. (M) convoy is from the same date as the F.N. (M) and F.S. (M) convoys are recommended, to be for ships of not less than 7½ knots ffom Southend to Methil and for ships of not less than 8 knots from Methil onwards. A.M. 1936B/14 is cancelled. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1621B/24 to C. in C's Nore, Rosyth).

/W.S. 9A.....

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (cont).

W.S. 9A. A.M. 1235B/19 and A.M. 2134B/23. Date of sailing of W.S. 9A. is now 3/6. In view of the above ESPERANCE BAY will not accompany W.S. 9A. BULOLO will proceed in company with AUSONIA andS.S. MENDOZA vide para 8 of A.M. 1235B/19. LONDON and S.S. WINDSOR CASTLE from Clyde will proceed with W.S.9A until A/S escort leave whence they will proceedwith W.S. 9A until A/S escort leaves whence they will proceed independently to Halifax by route which R.A. 3 is requested to issue. (D.O.D. (H) 1735/24 to C. in C.W.A. C. in C. H.F. etc).

S.C. 30. Fine weather passage. Route altered. All ships arrived except SOMERSBY, Straggler, torpedoed and sunk. (D.T.D. 1924B/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). 26 ships arrived under Rear-Adm. K. Geighton. 8 Allied, 1 neutral, included. Cargoes. (D.S. 626, 23/5).

H.X. 124. Route altered. Fine weather passage all ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1932B/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) 36 ships including 7 Allied, 1 Neutral. Cargoes. (D.S. 626, 23/5).

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

LEOVILLE.	Cancelamy 1506/22. LEOVILLE is still very short of crew and has E.R. Defects which I am informed may take up to 4 weeks to make good. There are also outstanding Armament defects and deficiencies. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1105/24).
NEWMARKET.	In view of defects in NEWMARKET SHERWOOD will be required to escort to present limit of endurance in accordance with Adty. 1341B/23. (C. in C. W.A. 1128B/24).
M.L. 102. CLYDE.	Your 1858/30/3. As ML 102 requires about ten days refit before proceeding South suggest -the stiffening be done on CLYDE concurrently with this refit. (R.A.C.F. 1225/24 to Admty).
NAUTILUS. (Collision 22/5)	Position of Wreck. (F.O. Humber 1452B/24).
EDOUARD VAN VLAENDEREN.	Your 1901/22/2. What is situation in regard to trawler EDOUARD VAN VLAENDEREN re salvage. (D.S.V.R. 1824B/23 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).
JAAK.	Departure Tug GOLIATH to assist s.s. JAAK engines broken down in QZS 192. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2210/24).

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H. My 2253B/23. Proceed as soon as ready to join W.S.8B after daylight 26/5. Should R/C today indicate that one or both of the German Battle Cruisers have left Brest it will be necessary to alter these instructions. It is at your discretion to keep destroyers with you or send them back to Gibraltar if they need the time in harbour before "Rocket". (1st. S.L. 0050B/24 to F.O.Force H.)
Departures RENOWN ARK ROYAL SHEFFIELD FORESIGHT FURY FOXHOUND FORESTER FAULKNOR HESPERUS.
(S.O.I. Gib., 0200A/24, to Admty., etc, F.O.C.N.A. 0220/24 to N.A. Stn.)

DUNEDIN. A.M. 1657/22. Intend sailing DUNEDIN Freetown p.m./25.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1120/24, to Admty.)

BRILLIANT. Sails at 1600/24 Freetown through 33.30 N., 09.30 W., speed 15 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1306B/24, to LATONA, WISHART.)

CAIRNDALE. Oiler CAIRNDALE is to be brought to immediate notice for proceeding to sea. Aviation fuel carried should be reduced as much as possible without delaying ship.
(V.C.N.S. 1334B/24, to F.O.C.N.A.)
Admty., 1334B/24 and 1719B/24 (N.T. in W.D.)
CITY OF DIEPPE, SEVERN and CAIRNDALE should be sailed in company if this will not delay CAIRNDALE more than about 12 hours.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1729/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1729B/24. Sail CAIRNDALE and SEVERN to patrol on a line 60 miles 225° from 43° N., 35° W. (V.C.N.S. 1918B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1918B/24. Same arrangements are required as in my 2227/24/3 but for Callsign MNXA read VVID. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1925B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/S/M's,Patrols...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

S/M's Patrols.

Admty. 1432B/23. As these large submarines are unsuitable for close inshore work in shallow water suggest patrols off Genoa or south eastward of Sardinia.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1524/24, to C. in C. Med.)

LONDON.

My 2140/22. 2 destroyers only of 4th D.F., will now meet you at R/V, 26/5.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1618B/24 to LONDON.)

LATONA Oerlikons guns.

Will remain at Gibraltar and will probably proceed through Mediterranean with two cruisers reinforcing Med., Fleet. 34 Oerlikons at Gibraltar are all to be mounted, if possible, in these three ships. Any that cannot be mounted are to be distributed among ships making passage and carried as freight. F.O.C.N.A. requested to inform S.O. Force H shortly before his return to Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1730B/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Cancelled, see 1954/25.

French Destroyer & M.V.

2000. French Destroyer one funnel escorting (LILLOIS partly loaded 330° Cape Roca 31 miles steering 225° 8 knots.
(IMPERIALIST, 2005/24, to F.O.C.N.A.)
(S.O.I. Gib., 2343/24 to Admty., Force H etc.)

Oilers, Dispositions.

1 (a) Oiler CAIRNDALE fitted for oiling at sea, and with scuttling charges has been sailed from Gibraltar to patrol on a line 60 miles 225° from 43° 35°.
1 (b) SEVERN will escort CAIRNDALE who is expected to reach the patrol line about 31/5.
2. Oiler is being sent to St. Johns, N.F. Capital ships can be fuelled in emergency from oiler in Concepcion Bay.

/3. There are...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

Oilers, Dispositions.

3. There are tankers in convoys H X 127 and 128 with fuel oil.
4. Enquiries are being made whether any U.S. oiler facilities can be made available.
5. Oiler SAN ADOLFO has been ordered to patrol a line 60 miles 285° from position 39° 49°. She should reach this position about 28/5.
6. Attention is drawn to Chart of Sea Surface Conditions for May Y 185 recently issued.
(V.C.N.S., 2030B/24, to C. in C. H.F., S.O. Force H., etc., etc.)

Enemy Units.

D.F. Bearings from Gibraltar 312° second class at 1754 G.M.T. 310° first class at 1759 G.M.T. German surface unit and U. Boat respectively. (F.O.C.N.A., 2113/24, to N.A. Stn.)
At 1930 G.M.T. German surface Unit bearing 322° 2nd class. (F.O.C.N.A. 2116/24, to PANDORA.)

Force H.

Admty. 0050B/24. In case your Force is required for extended operations, destroyers should be sent back to Gibraltar before it is necessary to give them any fuel. (V.C.N.S. 2138B/24 to S.O. Force H.)

South Atlantic.

INTREPIDO.

My 1516/21 (Overdue Shipping) Panamanian INTRRPIDO arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0845B/24.)

/LIEUT.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

LIEUT. ST. LOUBERT BIE.	Admty., 0126/22. Union Authorities require LIEUT. ST. LOUBERT BIE to proceed to Durban. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0952B/24, to Admty.)
Shipping Reports.	Your 1212/20/5 and my 1608/15/5. Request ships may be reported when crossing lat. 25° N.(C. in C. S.A., 1029N/24, to Admty.)
W.S.8A.	Your 0390/22. Convoy W.S.8.A. less DOMINION MONARCH HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN will probably sail from Durban 2/6 escorted by CORNWALL. Group B ships (?) DUNERA DILWARA ELISABETHVILLE now at Durban will embark Union troops and sail for Suez with convoy W.S.8A. JOHAN DE WITT may also be included. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1044B/24, to D. of S.T.)
BRITISH GRENADIER (torpedoed 22/5.)	Portuguese steamship GANDA from Lobito to St. Vincent reports picking up 83 survivors from BRITISH GRENADIER on 24/5. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1416N/24, to Admty.)
S.L.75. Spanish Vessel.	When corvettes part company 26/5 report to C. in C. S.A., repeated NELSON through S.O. corvettes when well clear of convoy position convoy and speed being made good of S.L.75. Also names of corvettes detailed in accordance with my 1937/23 and my 1657/24. Instruct corvettes to look out for Spanish Auxiliary engined sailing vessel thought to run petrol supplies between Villa Cisneros and Sal. If encountered such a vessel should be visited and searched and if any grounds should be s ent in under armed guard for further search. (C. in C. S.A. 1915N/25 to CATHAY.)

/AUCTORITAS.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

AUCTORITAS Italian.	N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro reports has berthed alongside and is receiving large quantity of bunker coal.
HERMES German.	Loading proceeding rapidly and appears will be ready to sail at end of month. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2144z/24, to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

Cruisers.	Proposals to replace cruiser losses (1st. S.L. 0021B/24 to C. in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.
TETRARCH.	My 0527/22. Arrival of TETRARCH post-poned 24 hours. (R.A. Alexandria, 0115/24 to Med. Fleet.)
UNIQUE. UPHOLDER.	Malta Sanctuary for UNIQUE and UPHOLDER. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1049B/24 to Admty.)
CAVARNA. (Roumanian)	My 0958/22, whole cargo 3700 cases, of which 1837 are declared munitions. Bulk of "machinery" consists of steel "rods". Unloading into trucks commenced. Agents give route as via ERZCRUM, but this is open to doubt. (S.O.1 Istanbul, 1114/24, to C. in C. Med.)
Operation "ROCKET"	A.O.C. Med. would like to have early information of exact number of mark (ii) Hurricanes which will be included in operation "ROCKET". (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1220B/24 to S.O. Force H.)Reply 25 (S.O. Force H. 0805/B/25)
TRIUMPH.	Will leave Alexandria 2000/24 and proceed through 031° 46' 029° 04' thence a course 290°. (Capt. S.1. 1241C/24 to TETRARCH)
	Your 0021/24. Big cruisers out here are too vulnerable. Need smaller handier cruisers with good A/A armament but proper R/D/F equipment is first essential. I should welcome GALATEA and would much prefer a second small cruisers with good radio D/F rather than EDINBURGH or SHEFFIELD.

/Would there ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

Would there be any prospect of fitting NEPTUNE accordingly as a rush job and providing her with a good Aerlikon armament? Failing NEPTUNE could any other similar cruiser fitted with R/D/F be provided within reasonable time? Cruiser without R/D/F will not long survive for which reason I do not think AURORA suitable as at present fitted. (C. in C. Med. 1358C/24 to Admty.)

Oil Supplies. — 1st S.L. 1506B/24 to C. in C. Med. see Mediterranean volume.

Relations with Vichy French. — Your 2007B/22. Necessary plans are being prepared. (C. in C. Med. 1554C/24 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. — Up to 1600 hours 24/5. All times G.M.T. Patrol of probably 12 aircraft came within 10 miles of north coast and turned back north.

Lampedusa M/G attack. — 1310 hours. Lampedusa harbour 4 destroyers and a DO.18 which Maryland machine gunned from 50 feet. No opposition. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1620/24)

Suez Canal. Air Mining. — Situation report. Mining air raid by about 8 aircraft on Suez Canal 0235 to 0430/24. New non-parachute unexploded mines in canal at KM.27, 34.55, and 94.5. One parachute unexploded mine 50 yards from channel at KM.118 and probably another in or near channel about KM.120. Nine exploded mines in canal or nearby, two unexploded mines ashore. No damage or casualties. Following are now considered dangerous sections, KM.24 to 37, 52 to 62, 91 to 97, 115 to 123, navigation permitted elsewhere. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1901C/24 to Admty.)

/TRIUMPH .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

TRIUMPH. — My 2240/22 Sanctuary for TRIUMPH is extended to 0200 G.M.T/25. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1928/24, to Med. Fleet, Force I.)

Suez Canal. — Your 1931C/20. Is traffic now being swept through Canal? If so, when was procedure started and how many vessels have passed safely? (D.M.S., 2008B/24 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal) Reply 0310C/25

UPHOLDER Attack on enemy convoy. — 3 very large troopers unknown number of destroyers, P.C. and S. of enemy are 036° 45' 015° 42' 180° 18 knots. 2 hits on (?liner) counted. Torpedoes expended. Whole area dangerous. I will avoid UPRIGHT. (UPHOLDER, 2042B/24 to V.A. Malta)

Syrian Blockade. — I am not entirely clear about H.M.G.'s policy as regards Syrian blockade in view of recent developments. Is it intention that I should enforce blockade and bring all ships into Haifa for Contraband Control and is this country to be regarded as enemy occupied? It will be appreciated that in present circumstances I can do little to implement a blockade policy, on the other hand it is undesirable to allow War supplies and aviation spirit into country. (C. in C. Med. 2340C/24 to Admty.)

Enemy Convoy. — Troop transports escorted by destroyers S in position to 036° 45' 015° 42' at 2042 course 180° speed 18 knots. Attempt to intercept. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2358B/24 to UPRIGHT)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

JAGUAR.
DEFENDER.

Your 2227/23. Have sailed destroyers for Alexandria. Scale of air attack on harbour 23/5 does not justify retention here during daylight. No recent indication of convoy, and weather deteriorating. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0225/24 to C. in C. Med.)

GLENROY.
troops.

Your 2146B/23. Arrangements are being made to send troops by other means. (C. in C. Med. 04380/24 to Admty.)

Troops.
DECOY, NIZAM,
ISIS, HERO.

Take NIZAM, ISIS, HERO under your orders and sail at 0900 after embarking troops to arrive Selino Kattelli 035° 13' N. 023° 40' E. at 0001/25 or as soon after as possible. Disembark troops and sail by 0300/25 at latest, keeping well to Southward and return to Alexandria with all despatch. Fighter protection will be arranged A.M./25. Details of landing place follow. (C. in C. Med. 07510/24 to DECOY)
ISIS, HERO, DECOY, NIZAM, E.T.A. Selino Kastelli about 0100/25 with approx. 600 SS Troops. If possible arrange 3 white vertical lights on end of pier and at suitable boat landings on east and west sides of Peninsula. Send any landing craft available. Inform ISIS of arrangements made. (C. in C. Med. 11400/24 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay)
Landing facilities at Selino Kastelli. S.B.N.O. Suda Bay has been requested to mark pier and landing place with 3 white vertical lights but enemy at present holds north end of road. Additional landing craft also asked for. (C. in C. Med. 12000/24 to ISIS)

/C. in C.Med. ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

Troops DECOY, NIZAM, ISIS, HERO. (contd.)

C. in C. Med. 1140(C) Am endeavouring to get one M.L.C. to Selino Castelli tonight. Arrival very doubtful. No other boat transport likely to be available. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1720/24 to ISIS)

Heraklion LOGICIAN sunk.

A Lighter delivered 3 tanks from Heraklion this morning. Situation Heraklion, Greeks hold town, very short ammunition. Town heavily bombed yesterday. Germans reinforcing by dropping troops and supplies well to Eastward. Troops and tanks landed at Kassara not yet joined up. No change reported Maleme or Retimo. LOGICIAN sunk. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0911/24 to C.in C. Med)

Benghazi bombed.

Operational Summary No.348 up to 1200 hours 24/5. Night 22/23. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi. Day 23/5. R/C Benghazi reported 3 ships of 10,000 tons, 5,000 tons and 1,000 tons respectively in harbour.

Crete.

2. Night 22/23. 3 Wellingtons dropped food and medical stores for our forces at Heraklion and Retimo. Supplies landed in sea at latter. Day 23/5. 3 Hurricanes and Blenheims proceeding Crete fired on by H.M. ships and returned to base. Enemy heavily bombed our troops West Canea in morning, and Retimo, Heraklion and Suda Bay in afternoon. No shipping within 30 miles N. and W. of Crete and within 40 miles N. and W. of Melos. 1 JU.52 towing 6 gliders seen approaching Maleme with 32 JU.52's and fighter escort in evening. Estimated about 80 troop carriers landed Maleme during day. Fighting continued 23/5 at Maleme. At Heraklion enemy was still holding out in evening 23/5 in area one and a half miles S.W. of town. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1028/24)

/Air Recco

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd.)

Air Recco. Request you will repeat the morning and evening R/C in Aegean on 25th. (C. in C. Med. 1202C/24 to 204 Group)

AJAX. Move up towards KASO. (C. in C. Med. 14020/24 to AJAX)
Pass through Kaso Straits as soon as possible after 2100. Sweep North coast of Crete with object of destroying enemy embarkation. Pass through Anti Kithera Straits as soon after 0400 as possible then proceed on D/F network till well clear of land. My 07520/24. ISIS intended passing through 034° 10' N. (?023°) 45' E. thence on course 120° 28 knots probably about 0600/25, follow them. (C. in C. Med. 1438C/24 to AJAX)
My 1438/24. You will appreciate importance of doing as much damage as possible to A/C on aerodrome at Maleme. If you have no luck with convoy and provided you are satisfied weather conditions will not precent your withdrawal at high speed and that you are at least 30 miles south of Crete by 0700, carry out bombardment. DIDO should severely restrict expenditure of ammunition. (C. in C. Med., 1641C/24 to AJAX)
My 1641/24. Inform AJAX and DIDO of exact position of Maleme aerodrome and position of own troops. (C. in C. Med., 1700C/24 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay)
C. in C. Med. 1700/C/24.
Area 1 to be bombarded is as follows:-
South Boundary 035° 31' 30" N.
East Boundary 023° 50' E.
North Boundary, Coast.
West Boundary 023° 49' 12" E.
Chart 2536 - A. Own front line, 1 mile E. of Eastern Boundary. Endeavour to bombard between 2200 and 0230. R.A.F. bombing commences 0300. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1901C/24 to AJAX, DIDO.)

/PERSEUS .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd.)

PERSEUS. Leave patrol forthwith and establish patrol off Port Melos, Island Milo. Further orders follows. (Capt. S.1. 1931C/24 to PERSEUS)
My 1931C/24. It is known that enemy is using Port Melos as assembly port for troop carrying CAIQUES bound for Crete. Transport destroyers and light A/S craft may also be present. Reconnoitre (?anchorage) with view to firing torpedoes into harbour or attacking by gunfire. In any event establish patrol off island with object to attack any enemy ship including CAIQUES. Attention is called to memo. S.O. 14 para. 5 (a) and (b). (Capt.S.1. 1951C/24 to PERSEUS).
My 1641/24. There are reported to be good number of E. boats in vicinity of Maleme. (C. in C. Med. 2025/24 to ABDIEL, AJAX).

Policy. Following from Chiefs of Staff No.115 to C. in C. Med. and M.E. Our difficulties in Crete are great but from all the information we have so are those of the enemy. If we stick it out, enemy's effort may peter out. It seems to us imperative that reinforcements in greatest strength possible should be sent as soon as possible to the island to ensure destruction of enemy already landed before they can be seriously reinforced. The vital importance of this battle is well known to you and great risks must be accepted to ensure our success.(Ends). (1st S.L. 1425B/24 to C. in C. Med.)

ABDIEL. My 1831C/23. My 1438C/24. On leaving Suda Bay proceed through anti Kalonehera Strait depth of water 10 miles off Cape Tripiti - Cape Spada - Cape Agria Grabusa - Elaphonisi light thence 034° 10' N. 023° 45' E. thence 120°. Report time leaving Suda Bay to AJAX. Join AJAX after daylight if possible. (C. in C. Med., 1442C/24 to ABDIEL.)

/Fleet Message .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranenn.

Attack on Crete. (contd.)

Fleet Message from C.in C. During the past few days the Fleet has been having a hard battle against a high proportion of the German Air Force and has kept its end up by dint of determination. We have sustained some hard knocks in the process of preventing any considerable enemy seaborne landing in Crete, but we have also given some. Some thousands of enemy troops have been trapped and sunk at sea. The Battle for Crete is still in progress, to win is essential.
The army is just holding its own against constant reinforcements of air borne enemy troops. We must not let them down.
At whatever cost to ourselves we must send reinforcements for them and keep the enemy from using the sea. There are indications that the enemy resources are stretched to the limit. We can and must outlast defiantly. Stick it out. (C. in C. Med. 1457/24 to Med. Fleet.)

Air Recco. Aircraft R/C 0900/24 reported no shipping seen between Crete and Melos. No observation of Heraklion due to bad weather. Over 40 aircraft on Maleme landing ground and on adjacent field and beaches. (C. in C. Med., 1808C/24 to AJAX, DIDO)

Crete Situation. Appreciation of situation in reply to Chiefs of Staff No.113 (C. in C.M.E., 2035/24 to W.O.) Section Copy.
Further appreciation (C. in C.M.E. 2150/24 to W.O.) see Lion Copy.

Situation Report. No.35 (C. in C. Med., 2112C/24 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

ISIS landing. Land your troops at Lutro. (C. in C. Med., 2044/24 to ISIS)
For Col. Laycock from Mid East. On landing port Lutro proceed Nibros where (?hope) truck(s) will meet. (C. in C.Med., 2142/24 to ISIS.)

/My 2044C/24 .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

ISIS landing (contd.)

My 2044C/24. If Port Lutro unsuitable land at Sphakia. (C. in C. Med., 22280/24 to ISIS.)
My 1448/24. Destroyers will disembark troops at level Lutro Knoll or Sphakia. (C. in C. Med. 22500/24 to Group 201, Group 204.)
(Group missed) C. in C. Med. 2044/24. You are to land as many troops as possible at Sphakia. ?Landing point is to eastward of "? landing" marked in Sphakia anchorage chart 2536 A. Orders for O.C. troops as follows:-
Take careful cover and avoid all movements by day. Be ready to move night of 25/26th. Guides will be sent. If you are unable to land all troops by 0400/25 you are to take remainder back. One L.M.C. should be in Sphakia, but my communications have failed. It is most important that troops landed should remain under cover until guide arrives. C.in C. Med. 2228/24 refers. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 23000/24 to ISIS.)
Two Beau fighters will be in position about 45 miles S.W. of Selino Kastelli at 0700/25. (C. in C. Med. 23010/24 to AJAX, ABDIEL, ISIS.)
My 2228/24 Have ordered ISIS to land troops at Sphaki in accordance with G.O.C's wish. Those not landed by 0400/25 will be retained on board. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 23150/24 to C. in C. Med.)
My 2044, my 1438 and my 2250/24. Steer southward after leaving port Lutro to 033° 50' N 024° ?20'E thence for Alexandria. (C. in C.Med. 23380/24 to ISIS.)

Destroyers to R.V.AJAX.

Request you will detail 3 destroyers capable of high speed to sail 0800/25 to R/V with AJAX in 034° 40' N. 027° 00' E. at 1600/25 unless otherwise ordered by AJAX. AJAX to detach KIMBERLEY IMPERIAL HOTSPUR on relief to Alexandria.(?)
(C. in C. Med., 23240/24 to R.A.(D) Med)
Position amended, see 09060/25.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

PANAMANIAN	Re suspected sabotage (C. in C. E.I. 05242/24 to Admty.)
AQUITANIA U.S.11. STAGPOOL	C. in C. Med. 1255/17 and my 1228/14 S.W. Monsoon now developing strongly and it appears certain AQUITANIA on arrival with U.S. 11 early July will have to berth at Trincomalee. Without assistance of STAGPOOL the watering of 3 large liners with troops on board at Trincomalee presents a very formidable problem. If STAGPOOL is not available a water carrier is essential. Request that suitable tanker which normally carries petrol or white oil may be sent to Colombo by mid June at latest for cleaning out and filling with fresh water. (C. in C. E.I., 05582/24 to Admty.)
A/A Guns	Your 1457/17. Concur in your proposals. Arrangements. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1242B/24 to C. in C. E.I.)
Kites	A.M. 992A of 22/4. Should H.M. Ships including A.M.C's be equipped with kites and lethal devices? Can find no definite instructions to this effect, but work can be undertaken if required. (C. in C. E.I., 15362/24 to Admty.)
Suez and Shatt el Arab	Re Minesweeping. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2009B/24 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.
Contraband	Re stopping U.S.A. shipments of trucks direct to Iran. (C. in C. India, 2226/24 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.5.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

H.X. 133	Regret no A.M.C's available for H.X. 133 which will have RAMILLIES (? as escort) (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 0056P/24)
REVENGE	To raise steam with all despatch and proceed to sea. (V.C.N.S. 1110B/24 to R.A.3) See 1505/24
H.H.X. 129	Due to leave Bermuda today 24th/5. Is not being sailed pending further instructions. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1222Q/24 to Admty.)
R/C for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN	Ref. a.m. 1238/24. (see Home Commands: Operations) I shall be grateful if you could hold long distance aircraft available for R/C from Newfoundland. (1st Sea Lord 1350B/24 to C.N.S. Ottawa) Your 1350B/24. Ten Digby aircraft standing Newfoundland. Maximum range 600 miles. (C.N.S. Canada, 2045Z/24) My 2045Z/24. 1 B.24 and 2 B.17 Aircraft are being made available now at Newfoundland. (C.N.S. Canada 2236Z/24 to Admty.)
St. John's N.F.	Re use as convoy escort base. (Govt. N.F. 1600/24) See Lion Copy.
REVENGE	Left Halifax. (S.O.I. Halifax 1505Z/24 to Admty. etc.)
Convoy Escorts to 45° W.	In view of A.M. 2027/23 it is suggested that procedure laid down in A.M. 0001/1 Sec. II para 9 should shortly be abandoned. If you see no objection Masters for St. Lawrence Ports will be instructed to send a W/T signal giving E.T.A. in harbour on entering the Gulf of St. Lawrence or Straits of Belle Isle. (D.T.D. 1555B/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

/THUNDERBOLT,...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.(contd.)

THUNDERBOLT. THUNDERBOLT leaves Halifax at 1830P/24 and in absence of other instructions or enemy information is proceeding to establish patrol within radius of 50 miles of 043° 00' N. 050° 00' W. (R.A.S, 1653P/24 to Admty.)

SAN ADOLFO. Proceed forthwith to patrol on line 60 miles 225° from a position 039° N. 049° W. Acknowledge forthwith. (C. in C.A.W.I. 17320/24 to SAN ADOLFO)
Sail Oiler SAN ADOLFO to patrol on a line 60 miles 225° from 39° N. 49° W.
(V.C.N.S. 1942B/24 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

U.S. Guns for M.V.'s. C. in C. A. and W.I. 09530/16. U.S. Gov. should be approached for permission to mount guns purchased in U.S.A. or supplied under the Lease and Lend Bill in British and Allied merchant ships. (D.T.D. 1940B/24 to B.A.R.M.)

Destroyers St. John's. Request immediate information earliest date R.C.N. destroyers to be sent to St. John's will be ready to operate from that port, also what training these destroyers and the corvettes now being sent will have received. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2011B/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Searches. A.M.2012B/24. Request you will consult U.S. Authorities and co-ordinate any searches you may be arranging with them. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2025B/24 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

LONDON.
SURCOUF. For information. LONDON proceeding to search area in vicinity of 025° 30' N. 042° 00' W. for enemy tanker. S/M SURCOUF proceeding to patrol within 150 miles of 025° N. 040° W. approaching from Northward. (C. in C. A.W.I., 22320/24 to LONDON, SURCOUF)

Trinidad Re Shipping telegrams & coding staff (A.C.N.S. (T) 2348B/24 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

/U.S.Air Patrol..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.(contd.)

U.S. Air Patrol.

Record of telephone conversation.
Adm. Ghormley stated that he had received following from Washington:-
"Patrol Squadron No.52 (9 or 12P.B.Y.) from Argentia (Newfoundland) directed search area 500 miles S.E. Cape Farewell. Please keep us informed latest positions Axis units".
V.C.N.S. stated that if it were a choice between a R/C tonight and tomorrow morning, he would prefer tomorrow morning as by then we should have a considerable number of our units in the area and R/C at daylight would be of vital importance. Adm.Ghormley further stated that he had asked Washington whether there were any U.S. tankers in Newfoundland area. (Adm.Ghormley, U.S. Naval Mission, No.T.O.O/24 to V.C.N.S.)

Australia & New Zealand.

U.S.11

Your 0727/3/4 . Request confirmation that Free French personnel will be included in U.S.11. (D.S.T. 1457B/24 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.5.1941.
Saturday.

U. BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.X.126 (attacked 20/5) — Following received addressed Admiral Plymouth. 0121 G.M.T. To all ships, U.S. C.G. Cutter NORTHLAND at 0100 G.C.T. 57. 30 N. 38. 18 W searching for convoy survivors. Request information nearby ships. NORTHLAND (Ends) (Lands End Radio, 0122/24 to Admty.)
Intercept 0211 G.M.T. To all ships U.S. Coast Guard Cutter MODOC at 0200 G.C.T. 57.17 N. 37.30 W. searching for convoy survivors. Request information nearest ship. (Lands End Radio, 0211/24 to Admty.)

RODNEY STAR (torpedoed 16/5) — 47 survivors from S.S. RODNEY STAR arrived Takoradi in S.S. BATNA on 23/5. (S.O.1 Freetown, 1011N/24 to Admty.)
G/104 addressed C. in C. S.A. S.S. BATNA landed yesterday evening at Tadoradi 47 survivors from RODNEY STAR torpedoed by submarine 16/5 05.05 N. 19.00 W. One of the survivors is Capt. Gough of S.S. CLAN OGILVY who was on the way home from Santos, Brazil, after his own ship had been torpedoed on 20/3. He states that all of the crew got away from the RODNEY STAR in four boats but that in heavy storm shortly afterwards two boats containing respectively Captain and Chief Officer of the RODNEY STAR became separated from his boat and remaining boat. All boats had agreed to steer N.E. He was picked up by BATNA on 18/5 in 06.10 N. 17.45 W. (Governor (Sir A. Hodson) No.T.O./24)

CITY OF SHANGHAI (torpedoed 11/5) — My 0207N/22/5. N.C.S.O. Pernambuco reports CITY OF SHANGHAI attacked by two submarines which, after vessel had been abandoned, approached and shelled vessel until sunk. Fourth engineer and five or six Lascars probably killed by explosion. (S.O.1 Freetown, 1147N/24 to Admty.)

LASSELL (torpedoed 30/4) — Your 1057/N/23. It is most improbable that U/B was U.22. If it was displaying this number U/B was probably U.38 the second boat of the second U/B flotilla a 740 ton boat. (D.D.I.C.1652B/24 to C. in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.5.1941.
Saturday.

U. BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0225. From MIDDLE HILL at 0225 G.M.T.German submarine bearing 090° 3rd class. (F.O.C.N.A. 0545A/24 to N.A. Stn.)

1123. German U-boat bearing 319° second class from Gibraltar at 1123 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 1252/24 to PANDORA)

1241. Am chasing U-boat in 041° 12' 011° 00' course 90°. (PANDORA 1241/24 to F.O.C.N.A)
My 1241. U-Boat probably Italian and southbound dived after being attacked by gunfire at extreme range. (PANDORA, 1324/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1241 and 1324. IMPERIALIST on Y.1 patrol has been ordered to proceed Northward. Add appropriate zone time SUREFIX to your time of origin in future messages. (F.O.C.N.A. 1458A/24 to PANDORA)

1115. By D/F at 1115Z/24 position of enemy S/M was 51° 30' N. 28° 30' W. Unit may be within 150 miles of this position. (D.D.I.C. 1356B/24)

1515. By D/F at 1515Z/24 position of enemy U-boat was within 60 miles of 51° 00' N. 26° 30' W. U-boat possibly damaged and proceeding to Lorient at 8 knots or less. (D.D.I.C. 1805B/24)

1700. By D/F at 1700Z/24 Italian U-boat estimated 37° N. 12° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1952B/24)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BISMARCK & PRINZ EUGEN

F.A.A. attack.

Shortly after midnight 24/25 May F.A.A. aircraft from VICTORIOUS attacked BISMARCK with torpedoes and one hit was reported.

PRINCE OF WALES was still in touch with the enemy at 0130. She had 9 main armament guns in action, maximum speed estimated 26 knots.

Touch with Enemy lost.

1st C.S. lost touch with the BISMARCK at 0306 in 56° 23' N 56° 5' W. PRINZ EUGEN was last seen at 0200B.

Situation at 0600B/25

NORFOLK and SUFFOLK searching to the Westward and C.S.2 with 4 cruisers and VICTORIOUS carrying out a surface and air search to the northwestward of last known position of enemy.
C. in C. H.F. estimated to be near 55° 00' N. 35° 00' W. PRINCE OF WALES has been detached by C.S.1 to join C. in C.
RODNEY estimated 55° 30' N. 33° 00' W.
RAMILLIES estimated 51° 30' N. 38° 00' W.
EDINBURGH estimated 49° 40' N 30° 30' W.
LONDON estimated 38° 40' N. 21° 00' W. proceeding to southwestward to search for enemy tanker.
Force H estimated 39° 00' N. 18° 50' W proceeding to intercept enemy from the southward.
REVENGE estimated 43° 30' N. 56° 00' W.
MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA refuelling Hvalfiord.

At 0836B the Admiralty directed C. in C. H.F. to take all forces of the Home Fleet, and RAMILLIES and RODNEY under his orders.

It was assumed that the enemy were making for a Biscay port.

C. in C. H.F.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (contd)

C. in C. H.F. continued to steer eastward during the day.

S/Ms orders to St. Nazaire.

At 1919 6 submarines were ordered to take up patrol positions in case the enemy were making for St. Nazaire.

At 2000 PRINCE OF WALES was proceeding to Hvalfiord. VICTORIOUS screened by KENYA is to endeavour to locate and attack the enemy tomorrow if he is making for the Iceland Faeroes Channel.

Air Searches.

Air searches are being carried out from Scotland and Iceland (C); 3 Catalinas at 1800 commenced a search intended to intercept any movement of the enemy to the northward or southward; and U.S.A. Patrol Squadron has been directed to search an area 500 miles S.E. of Cape Farewell.

Convoys held up.

Convoys OB 327 and 328 were each held up for 24 hours.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night, owing to bad weather.

A strong force of Blenheims operated today against enemy shipping between the mouth of the Scheldt and the Skaw. Four ships were considered to have been hit and damaged, and two of these may have sunk.

2 Blenheims.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations (contd).

2 Blenheims this afternoon attacked a 4000-5000 ton merchant vessel which had been previously reported by a Maryland in the Bay of Biscay, both aircraft claim 2 hits.

Coastal Command believe that a merchant vessel of 1,000 tons was hit off Lister Light.

C5

Enemy Air Operations.

Two trawlers were attacked off Berry Head today: GEORGES GEORGETTE was damaged and beached, IRENE ROBERTS was damaged by machine gunfire and taken to Birxham.

Mining.

O°

Mines were detonated today off Liverpool and Milford Haven.

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL arrived at Durban today.

Interception of French vessels may now be effected anywhere outside neutral territorial waters.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Some Hurricanes were burnt out and damaged at Ta Kali aerodrome by enemy air attack this forenoon.

Air Operations Sicily - Tripoli route.

2 Blenheims from Malta today obtained 2 hits on a merchant vessel of 4000 to 5000 tons escorted by a destroyer in 34° 48' N 10° 50' E.

Swordfish tonight laid mines off Lampedisa harbour which is used as a refuge for small merchant vessels on the Sicily - Tripoli route.

Western Desert.

At 1600 today GRIMSBY was sunk by air attack in 32° 15' N 24° 35' E., 40 miles N.E. of Tobruk, together with S.S. HELKA whom she was escorting. No fighter protection was available.

Attack on Crete.

Policy.

C. in C. Med and C. in C. M.E. have been informed that they are to concert measures for clearing up the situation without delay. In so doing, the Fleet and the R.A.F. must accept whatever risk is intailed in preventing any considerable reinforcement of men and material from reaching Crete by night or by day. Should air R/C show any movement by sea or any collection of craft at Milo it will be essential for the Fleet to operate north of Crete by day, in spite of losses. "Time" is the dominating factor".

Reinforcement.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

Reinforcements. Weather conditions prevented destroyers from landing troop reinforcements on the south coast of Crete last night.

ABDIEL who returned to Alexandria today from landing stores and ammunition at Suda Bay, reembarked S.S. troops who could not be landed from the destroyers and is to sail again tonight with 2 destroyers carrying the remainder of the personnel.

C3

GLENROY, COVENTRY and 2 destroyers sailed at 2000 today to land troops and stores on Tybaki beach during the night 26/27 May. Convoy AN 31 of 3 ships (only 2 sailed however) to sail at 0500/26 for Suda Bay with stores. There is no fighter protection for these operations.

Enemy shipping. Air R/C of the Aegean at 1330 today showed no ships at sea anywhere north of Crete to Stampalia - Milo - Cape Malea. There were 6 small vessels and 15 caiques at Milo.

Air operations. A Wellington bombed enemy positions in Crete last night.

Suda Bay area. The Canea area was heavily bombed and machine gunned today.

During this morning 3 squadrons of Blenheims, one of Marylands and a number of Hurricanes heavily bombed and machine gunned enemy aircraft, on Maleme aerodrome and neighbouring fields, destroying an estimated total of 24, including JU 52's and fighters. A further 6 Blenheims bombed Maleme this evening.

A Strong.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

A strong enemy attack in the Maleme - Canea area commenced just before dark, backed up by heavy bombing of our forward area and of Canea town. (See 26/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

DUKE OF YORK. — Deputy Controller will visit Glasgow on 38/5 to discuss acceleration. (Controller 1725B/25 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Delayed Signals. — N.O.I.C. Oban's 1000/16. Request you will obtain full written report in explanation of these delays and forward proposals for preventing their recurrence. (A.C.N.S. T. 1955B/25 to C. in C. W.A).

Movements.

LANCE. — Proceed to Reykjavik and await further orders. (R.A.D. 1001B/25 to LANCE).

BEDOUIN. IMPULSIVE. — 2. Unless otherwise ordered BEDOUIN and IMPULSIVE after leaving SOUTHERN PRINCE in position "X" proceed to Reykjavik complete with fuel and await further orders. (R.A.D. 1013B/25).

MALCOLM. — Return to Reykjavik. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1043/25 to MALCOLM).

JUPITER. — Proceed to Skaale Fiord Faeroes and complete with fuel. Thence provide escort for BEN - MY - CHREE from Faeroes to Reykjavik as ordered by N.O.I.C. Faeroes.
Para. 2. On arrival unless otherwise ordered proceed to Hvalfiord complete with fuel and await further orders. (R.A.D. 1045B/25 to JUPITER).
Your 1045B/25. E.T.A. 1330B/26. (JUPITER 2046B/25 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

RAMILLIES. BRITANNIC. — RAMILLIES is to join BRITANNIC and escort her to Halifax.
2. ESKIMO now believed with BRITANNIC is to report P.C. and S. of BRITANNIC. (V.C.N.S. 1424B/25).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER.

Have lost touch with enemy battleship last seen in 57 08 N 36 34 W course 165 21 knots. (NORFOLK 0055B/25).
One enemy cruiser bearing 204 distance 8 miles my position 57° 2' N. 36° 21' W. R.16 (NORFOLK 0122B/25).
Enemy surface craft detected by R/DF bearing 215 distance 11 miles my position 57° 6' N. 36° 5' W. (SUFFOLK 0124B/25).
One enemy battleship bearing 200° 12 miles course 180 my position 56° 57' N. 35° 36' W. based on ref. position 80 detached forces 0800. (PRINCE OF WALES 0130/25)
Attack completed 0020. 1 hit observed. Further report will be made. (F.O. 2nd C.S. 0159B/25 to C. in C.H.F)
Surface craft detected by R/DF bearing 195° distance 11 miles my position 56° 49' N 36° 8' W. (SUFFOLK 0213B/25)
My 0213B. Enemy course 160° speed 20 knots. (SUFFOLK 0225B/25).
Enemy either worked round to Eastward under stern of shadowing force or has turned Westward. Acting on latter alternative. (SUFFOLK 0401B/25).
Have lost touch with Enemy. Am resuming his original course and speed. My position 56° 2' N. 36° 1' W. (SUFFOLK 0441/25)
Lost touch with enemy 0306. (SUFFOLK 0505/25).
NORFOLK with PRINCE OF WALES astern was in position 35° 52' N. 36° W. at 0500 B. close on port quarter of SUFFOLK. If visibility is good intend to work round to the northward of P at dawn so that PRINCE OF WALES can join you. If visibility is low shall keep PRINCE OF WALES to support me in maintaining contact at short range. (C.S.1 0511B/25 to Scapa)
Organize air and surface search N.W. of last reported position. (C. in C. H.F. 0600B/25 to F.O. 2nd C.S).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER - Contd.

Enemy lost at ~~06 - 1B~~ 0306B. SUFFOLK is being sent to search to westward. At daylight NORFOLK follow SUFFOLK, and PRINCE OF WALES will be sent to join you. (NORFOLK 0605B/25)
Probability appears that enemy made a 090° alteration west or turned back then and cut away to eastward under our stern. (C.S.1 0616B/25 to C. in C. H.F).
Correct 0605B Word after Enemy lost at to read 0306B. (NORFOLK: Recd. 0636/25)
At 0630B Am proceeding to search on course 285° at 25 knots my ref. Posn. at 0600B 055° 30' N. 036°W. (C.S.1. 0630B/25 to SUFFOLK).
PRINCE OF WALES has been ordered to proceed at 06207 to join you. Your estimated P.C. and S. at 0630 have been given as 54° N. 34° 55' W. 216° 26 knots. (C.S.1. 0651B/25)
My position at 0630B 055° 20' N. 035° 54' W. (C.S.1 0704B/25).
My P.C. and S. at 0700B/25 are 055° 12'N. 035° 56' W. 205° 25½ knots. (PRINCE OF WALES 0707B/25).
Our forces lost visual touch with enemy at 0306 in approx. 56° 30' N. 36° 00 W. Enemy must be within 150 miles of last mentioned position at 0600Z. (1st S.L. 0741B/25).
F.O. 2nd C.S. 0159B/25 Have you any evidence to confirm that T/B attack was successful. -(A.C.N.S.H. 0829B/25 to C.S.1, SUFFOLK, PRINCE OF WALES).
Weather forecast 0900/25 for 12 hours. (Duty Met. Officer 0832B/25).
Take all forces of Home Fleet also RODNEY and RAMILLIES under your orders. (D.O.D.H. 0836B/25 and 1048B/25 to C. in C.H.F.)
During the period from shortly after the time of the T.B. attack until 0258B/25 BISMARCK made a series of signals some very long, and a fair inference is that owing to damage received enemy has recast his plan. (1st S.L. 0855B/25 to C. in C.H.F)
My position 052° 34' N. 029° 23' W. SOMALI, TARTAR, MASHONA in company. Intend to remain in this vicinity to intercept enemy break to South Eastwards. Visibility 10 miles. (RODNEY 0900B/25);

/A.M. 2023B/24....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER - Contd.

1. A.M. 2023B/24. Situation at 0600B/25.
1. 1st C.S. lost touch with enemy at 0306 in 56° 23 ' N. 36° 05' W.
2. NORFOLK and SUFFOLK are searching to the Westward and C.S. 2 with 4 cruisers and VICTORIOUS is carrying out a surface and air search to the northwestward of last known position of enemy.
3. C. in C. H.F. is estimated to be near 55° N. 35° W. PRINCE OF WALES has been detached by C.S.1 to join C. in C.
4. RODNEY estimated 55° 30' N. 33° 00' W.
5. RAMILLIES estimated 51° 30' N. 38° 00' W.
6. EDINBURGH estimated 49° 40' N. 30° 30' W.
7. LONDON estimated 38° 40' N. 21° 00' W proceeding to the southwestward to search for enemy tanker.
8. Force H estimated 39° 00' N. 18° 30' W. proceeding to intercept enemy from the southward.
9. REVENGE estimated 43° 30' N. 58° 00' W.
10 MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM and ARETHUSA refuelling Hvalfiord - Iceland. (V.C.N.S. 0919B/25).
Your 0829B/25. No. (PRINCE OF WALES 0926B/25 to Admty.)
Your 0829/25. Only available evidence in NORFOLK is report from aircraft to VICTORIOUS as follows begins: Have attacked enemy with torpedoes and only one hit observed. T.O.O. 0015B ends. (C.S.1. 0943B/25 to Adty.)
Estimated position of enemy by D/F at 0852B/25 was 057° N. 033° W. All Home Fleet forces search accordingly. (C. in C. H.F. 1047/25).
Radio finger prints indicate that the ship which transmitted at 0854B/25 in a position to the Eastward of the last known position of BISMARCK is the same ship that transmitted a number of messages after the T/B attack last night. (A.C.N.S. H. 1057B/25).
Your 0900B/25. Action on assumption that enemy is proceeding towards a Bay of Biscay port. (V.C.N.S. 1158B/25 to RODNEY).

/My 0919B.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER - Contd.

My 0919B is being repeated to you for information. (H.W.R. 1202B/25 to F.O.S. and H.Q.C.C).
BISMARCK and HIPPER class cruisers may arrive Brest A.M./27.
B. Submarines take up following patrol positions proceeding with despatch when practicable.

C. Name.	Lat. North.	Long. West.
H.44	48 56	06 48
SEALION	48 44	07 38
SEAWOLF	48 15	07 06
PANDORA	48 01	07 52
STURGEON	47 32	07 22
TIGRIS.	47 17	08 10

(F.O.S. 1244B/25).
My 1158B/25. Comply with C. in C. H.F. 1047/25 acting on the assumption that enemy is proceeding to Norway via passage between Scotland and Iceland. (C.N.S. 1428B/25 to RODNEY).
Whenever you break W/T silence it would be helpful if you will include you P.C. and S. (V.C.N.S. 1443B/25 to C. in C.H.F)
BISMARCK opened fire range 23000 yards just after HOOD. Fire immediately effective on HOOD. No results obtained on type 284 or 281 due to interference probably enemy. BISMARCK'S secondary armaments effective at 20000 yards. (PRINCE OF WALES 1545B/25)
My position 054° 50' N. 033° 20' W. at 1600B, course 80°, speed 25 knots. Your 1428, do you consider enemy making for Faeroes. (C. in C. H.F. 1621/25 to Adty.)
My 1621B/25. My P.C. and S. are at 1815B 054° 57' N. 031° 53' W. 117° 24 knots. (C. in C. H.F. 1817/25 to Adty.)

/My P.C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER - Contd.

My P.C. and S. are at 1700B 057° 42' N. 035° 40' W. 070° 27 knots. VICTORIOUS, KENYA, AURORA in company. HERMIONE detached Hvalfiord fuel. Intend GALATEA, AURORA part company to Hvalfiord to fuel at 0100B/26 VICTORIOUS screened by KENYA to endeavour to locate and attack enemy A.M. tomorrow if he is making for Iceland Faroes Channel. (C.S. 2 1655B/25 to C. in C.H.F).
MANCHESTER, ARETHUSA and BIRMINGHAM will be fuelled and ready for sea 2200B/25. (MANCHESTER 1746B/25 to C. in C. H.F)
Cancel my 1428B/25. Proceed on the assumption -that destination of the enemy is a French Port. (V.C.N.S. 1805B/25 to RODNEY).
Admiralty appreciation is that BISMARCK is making for West coast of France. (V.C.N.S. 1824B/25).
Weather Forecast from 1900 G.M.T/25 to 0900 G.M.T. /26. (Duty Met. Officer 1903B/25)
Send destroyers to screen PRINCE OF WALES and VICTORIOUS as soon as possible. (C. in C H.F. 1912/25 to Capt. D.3).
(A) Enemy more likely to proceed to St. Nazaire.
(B) Cancel Para. C. of my 1244B/25 and substitute:-

H.44	48	16	06	28
SEALION	47	48	06	10
PANDORA	47	32	06	48
SEAWOLF	47	08	06	20
STURGEON	46	46	06	48
TIGRIS.	46	28	06	12

(F.O.S. 1919B/25 to S/M's Area A)
Proceed at best speed, when complete with fuel to screen PRINCE OF WALES estimated P.C. and S. 2000B/25 055° 40' N. 031° 50' W. zigzagging S. of A. 18 knots. Carry out sweep at visibility distance on passage. (D.3. 1957B/25 to ELECTRA, ANTELOPE, ACHATES, ANTHONY).

/T.B.R.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER - Contd.

T.B.R. have been arranged 10 miles either side of your track to cover your passage to patrol position. (Capt. S.5 2017B/25 to SEALION).
My P.C. and S. are at 2100 55° 50' N. 31° 28' W. 120° 26. Fuel remaing 50% at 2000. (C.S.1. 2040B/25).
My P.C. and S. are 054° 07' N. 029° 18' W. X 20, 117°, 26 knots. (C. in C.H.F. 2200/25 to Adty.)
Sail four destroyers forthwith to screen PRINCE OF WALES to Hvalfiord.
PRINCE OF WALES was in 55° 40' N. 31° 50' W. at 2000 today proceeding for Hvalfiord at 18 knots zigzagging. (V.C.N.S. 2201B/25 to ELECTRA).
Signal intercepted strength 6 on 390 kc/s contain FELIX - FELIX at 1500/24th bearing 042°, position 057° 53' N. 26° 10' W.
1900/24th bearing 083°, position 57° 2' N. 25° 47' W.
1700/25th bearing 110° position 54° 36' N. 27° W. singly. Might be German Oiler going southward parallel to BISMARCK keeping contact. (MANSFIELD 2205Z/25 to C. in C. W.A).
F.O.S. 1919B/23. Proceed on surface through 048° 46' N. 005° 46' W. to new patrol position 047° 48' N. 006° 10' W. T.B.R. will be arranged to cover passage. (Capt. S.5. 2225B/25 to SEALION).
Request Destroyer Screen be availabe to R/V with KING GEORGE V. Lack of fuel may necessitate lowering speed A.M./27. Also for RODNEY. (C. in C.H.F. 2238/25 to Adty)
Request you will signal on arrival in harbour
(a) A brief account of the action.
(b) Summary of damage.
(c) Any other remarks of interest.
(A.C.N.S.H. 2317B/25 to C.S.1).
ELECTRA, ACHATES, ANTHONY, ECHO sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 2340/25)
Concur that VICTORIOUS and KENYA should operate as proposed in C.S.2's 1655B/25 in spite of A.M. 1824B/25. (V.C.N.S. 2342/25 to C.S. 2 and C. in C. H.F).

/After.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and HIPPER - Contd.	After arrival in patrolling position object is to attack enemy cruisers and above. (F.O.S. 2346B/25 to S/M's) My 1244B/25. Submarines are not to be attacked unless their hostile identity is certain. (F.O.S. 2348B/25 to S/M's Area A)
East Coast Patrol.	In view of reductions in Brightlingsea A/P drifters, request Sheerness vessels maintain positions between B.3 and B. 5 buoys. Day patrol need be maintained only when conditions require. (C. in C. Nore 0949B/25).
Dover Patrols.	For night 25th/26th. No patrols owing to weather forecast. (V.A. Dover 1709B/25).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

In the event of enemy breaking back to the East, following patrols have been ordered.
N.W. from North Cape to Ice Limit.
360° from Revosnaes to 200 miles or Ice Limit Faeroes to Iceland. Faeroes to Shetlands.
STAB STAND BERT TROST and HORNLI on the Norwegian Coast.
P.R.U. Norwegian Ports and Kiel.
(A.C.N.S. H. 0225B/25).

M/V's attacked.

Day 24/5. 4 Aircraft attacked three out of four stationary M/VS of 2,000 tons 10 miles north of Borkum with incendiaries. A direct hit with one 250 lb was obtained on the prow of one of these M/VS. Ship is claimed as total loss. Two aircraft attacked a stationary flak ship 20 miles north of Borkum with incendiaries. Bombs from one aircraft were observed to be very near misses. 4 aircraft attacked one of two M/VS of 2500 tons 15 miles west of Borkum with incendiaries Crews were certain that direct hits were obtained.
Night 24/25. No operations owing to bad weather. (H.Q.B.C. 0310/25).

Ten Digby aircraft one Boeing 24 and two Boeing 17 aircraft are standing by at Newfoundland. (D.O.D.H. 0422B/25 to C. in C. H.F).

In view of SUFFOLK'S 0441B request air search at dawn. Enemy speed has not exceeded 22 khots for some time.
(C.S.1. 0522B/25 to C. in C.H.F).

Bombing Restriction.

Request T.B.R. between 50° N. and 44° N. and 009° W. and West Coast of France and lines joining Brest and Land's End.
(F.O.S. 1309B/25 to SEVERN).

/Patrols.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Patrols.

A/S sweep by three Whitleys will be flown from 1400 to 1930/25 covering following area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1328/25).
1. 3 Long Range Catalina A/C fitted with A.S.V. will arrive in 52° N. 21° 10' W. at about 2100B.
2. From this position they will fly a parallel track sweep out to 30° W. on a course 298° on a front of 90 miles.
3. The aircraft will then fly due North for 50 miles.
4. They will then return on a parallel track sweep on a course of 060° as far as 16° W. (V.C.N.S. 1620B/25).

Enemy Air Activity.

THOMAS STEPHEN attacked.

(Trawler) Attacked at 2359/24 by single unidentified A/C. Position 58° 28' N. 2° 42' W. L.L.B. and M.G. Six bombs fell wide. Two wounded by M.G. fire, 1 seriously. No damage to ship.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1115/25).

Convoy.

Fighters have been sent to convoy MUSTER.
(Lyness W/T 2330B/25).

Mining.

Iceland.

1 Mine MK X X rendered safe 10/5, 1 9/5 both in 063° 40' N. 020° 15' W. 1 Mine marked XX sunk 4/5 in 063° 33' N. 017° 30' W.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1031/25).

/Liverpool.....

War Diary;

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Liverpool.

At 0657/25 one Ground Mine detonated by S.A. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1233B/25)
One mine detonated by S.A. trawler. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2058B/25).

Milford Haven.

4 Mines detonated today by Sweeper. Details. (P.M.S.O. Milford Haven 1818/25).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Unit.

Following bearings obtained at 0654Z/25. -(D.D.I.C. 0927B/25).
Following bearins intercepted at 0748Z/25. (D.D.I.C. 1030B/25).
My 1030/B. Following bearins received at 0854Z/25. Signal was repetition of that made at 0748Z/25. (D.D.I.C. 1139B/25).
From D/F bearings the position of the enemy unit transmitting was in approx. 55° 30' N: and between 31° & 32° W. at 1054B/25.
Longitude is unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 1228B/25)
Good D/F fix at 1320 puts enemy vessel within 50 miles of 55° 15' N. 32° W.
Transmission was on submarine frequency but strenth of signals indicates that ship transmitting was surface ship.
Further signal will follow as to whether fingerprints give any information and giving list of bearings. (V.C.N.S. 1419B/25 to C. in C.H.F);
My 1419B/25. By D/F at 1120 G.M.T. following bearings obtained.
Fingerprint indicates that unit transmitting was not the same as that using KOOTWYK frequency in the same vicinity. Probably U/B. (D.D.I.C. 1507B/25).

/Brest.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (contd).

Brest. — Air R/C at 1930B/25 show battlecruisers still at Brest in usual positions. (D.D.I.C. 2108B/25).

Enemy Escort Craft. — My 1919/25. Analysis of recent R/C of French ports show that 3 German destroyers and a number of M. class minesweepers may be available for escort duty. (F.O.S. 2347B/25 to S/M's Area A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L. Convoys. — It is intended to send one Commodore only for future S.L. convoys, instead of one for the fast portion and one for the slow portion as heretofore, (reasons). (D.T.D. 1328B/95 to C. in C.S.A).

H.X. 128 and S.C. 32. — To reverse course for 12 hours and then to proceed on route ordered in A.M. 2028B/23. (V.C.N.S. 1414B/25 to LACONIA, CALIFORNIA etc)

O.B. 327. O.B. 328. — Sailing of convoy O.B. 327 and O.B. 328 is to be delayed 24 hours each respectively. (C. in C.W.A. 1509B/25 to all F.O.I.C's)

H.X. 128 and S.C. 32. — My 1410B/18. As H.X. 128 and S.C. 32 have been re-routed, 3rd and 12th escort groups are not to meet these convoys. (C. in C. W.A 1628B/25 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

W.S.8X. NEPTUNE. — Your 1123B/24. Concur. (D.O.D.(H) 1815B/25 to C. in C.W.A).

Positions. — Estimated position of Convoys at 1200B/25 as follows:-

W.S.8B.	51° 20' N,	23° 30' W.
S.L. 74.	40° 20' N,	24° 58' W.
H.G. 62.	50° 33' N,	21° 50' W.
O.G. 62.	38° 10' N,	19° 00' W.
ARUNDEL CASTLE	43° 05' N,	21° 03' W.

HAVELOCK has been ordered to reverse course of ARUNDEL CASTLE for twelve hours. Anticipate she will do this about midnight tonight. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2204B/25 to S.O. Force H).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

HARRY.	(Faeroes fishing trawler) Found on fire 37 miles N. Rattray Head. No crew on board. Taken in tow by H.M.T. EBOR ABBEY. Eventually sank at 0900/25. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1116/25)
LOTTIER.	Your 1013B/25. Sailing delayed 24 hours due to engine defects in LOTTEER. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1459B/25to C. in C. W.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.	D/F bearings of enemy surface unit from Gibraltar at 0148 and 0159 GMT 320 third class and 327 second class respectively. (F.O.C.N.A. 0240/25 to PANDORA, 0245/25 to S.O. Force H and LONDON).
Operation "Rocket".	Your 1220B/24. 25.(Number of Mark II Hurricanes to be included) (S.O. Force H 0805B/25 to V.A. Malta)
Force H.	My P.C. and S. at 0730B/25. Position 40.43 - 15.50, 310° 22 knots. ARK ROYAL and SHEFFIELD in company. Destroyer (s) detached. (S.O. Force H., 0840B/25, to Admty.) Please keep me fully informed Brest R/C. (S.O. Force H., 0901B/25 to C. in C. Plymouth) Proceed on assumption that enemy turned towards Brest at 0300B/25. (1st S.L. 1023B/25 to S.O. Force H).
PANDORA, Ferrol.	Suggest PANDORA patrol off Ferrol in case BISMARCK proceeds there. (F.O.C.N.A. 1034/25 to Admty.)
IMPERIALIST.	Return to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1127A/25 to IMPERIALIST). IMPERIALIST returning to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128A/25 to PANDORA).
U.S. Force.	U.S. Force may be encountered at sea to west of 027° 15' W. between 025° N. and 037° N. (F.O.C.N.A. 1658/25 to LONDON, CATHAY)
Oerlikon Guns.	Cancel Admty. 1730/24 and 0140/23. Your 1324/22. Report number of complete Oerlikon equipments and amount of Oerlikon ammunition remaining at Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (F) 1954B/25 to F.O.C.N.A) Reply: see 2346A/26.
SURCOUF. LONDON.	Presume Admiralty will inform SURCOUF of movements of LONDON if considered necessary. (F.O.C.N.A. 2332/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

LATONA. — LATONA's 2247/24 (N.T. in W.R.) giving T.of A. Freetown 1100Z/25 indicated your 0140B/23/ not received by her. Should she be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as fuelled ? (C. in C. S.A., 0951N/25, to Admty.)
Your 0951N/25. No. She should continue to Suez via the Cape at best possible speed. (D.O.D. (F) 1553B/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

ANGLO INDIAN, CORDILLERA and GASCONY. — Admty., 0001/1 request instructions whether to be routed to Bermuda for convoy via Caribbean.
(St. Vincent, C.V., 1045/25, to Admty.)
Your 1045/25, all homeward-bound ships of convoy speed in Cape Verde Islands should be sailed to join next S.L. convoy.
(D.T.D. 1914B/25 to Consul, St. Vincent,C.V.

BUTTERFLY XXIV MAGGIO (Italian). — My 1745/20. (N.T. in W.R.) BUTTERFLY has returned to anchorage having loaded about 850 tons cotton rubber and hides. 24 MAGGIO has come alongside to load.
(N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 1142/25, to N,A.Rio; S.O.I. Montevideo 1753Z/25 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MONTE TEIDE. — Your 1315/22nd all crew Spanish MONTE TEIDE are Spaniards and Captain has always been known to be friendly and is a personal friend of British Ambassador Buenos Aires.
(N.S.O. (I) Montevideo 1146/25, to N.S.O. (I) Freetown.)

PHILOMEL. — Your 1737/18/2. N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands reports earliest date departure PHILOMEL is 22/6 and this subject to weather conditions.
(C. in C. S.A., 1343N/25, to Admty.)

/NEWCASTLE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

NEWCASTLE CUMBERLAND.	R.V. at F. 27/5, both fuel from ABBEYDALE. R.A. S.A.D. transfers to NEWCASTLE. CUMBERLAND then proceed direct Freetown speed of advance 18 knots. I hope to visit Rio de Janeiro in NEWCASTLE 3/6. (R.A.S.A.D, 1347Z/25, to S.A.D.)
U/B Area.	My 0030 B/22 and my 1436 B/25. It would appear better to avoid area between 5° and 10° N., and 20° and 30° W., through which Greek PARTHENON and AGIOI VICTORES are at present routed. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1837B/25 to C. in C. S.A.)
Interception of French Vessels.	Interception of French vessels may now be effected anywhere outside neutral territorial waters. (C. in C. S.A. 1943N/25 to S.A. Station.)
KING EDWARD.	Overdue shipping, due Durban 20/5 not arrived. (Capetown, 2000B/25 to Admty.,etc).
ANSON.	Ref. CROCUS 1420/25 Report P.C. and S. (C. in C. S.A., 2036N/25, to ANSON.)
Shipping.	Diversions, (C. in C. S.A., 2214N/25, 2216N/25, 2218N/25, 2220 N/25, [illegible], 2226N/25, 2228N/25.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

ARNO. Italian hospital ship, has been ordered to pick up 850 men off Cape Muro di Porco, Sicily. (D.S., 25/5, No. 628.)

URSULA. Make your best speed during darkness tonight. Two or three escorted transports may be encountered approaching from N.E., at dawn. (Cdr. S.1. 0055B/25, to URSULA.)

Suez Canal. Minesweeping. Your 2008B/24. General policy is to carry out intensive sweeping and searching for mines for 3 full days and then sweep ships over dangerous area (s) remaining. 40 ships were swept safely over dangerous area(s) 17 to 23/5 inclusive, Diesel vessels in tow. Movements of shipping now temporarily suspended because of mines laid 24/5.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0319C/25, to Admty.)

A/C attack on Italian M/V. At 1720/ 24/5, 2 Blenheims 139 Sqdn., attacked one M.V. 4 to 5 thousand tons escorted by destroyer in position 34.48 N., 10.50 E., course 270° reported previously by Maryland Recco. Both attacked M.V. scoring two direct hits. Huge column of smoke amidships. Some A.A. from destroyer after attack. M.V. heavily laden with timber stacked on decks. Both aircraft returned safely.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta 0515/25.)

TRIUMPH NEREUS. Alexandria S/M Sanctuary will be in force 1700 to 2100/25 for TRIUMPH leaving and from 1500 to 1900/26 for Greek S/M NEREUS leaving. All times G.M.T.
(R.A. Alexandria, 0745c/25.)

/UPRIGHT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

General (contd).

UPRIGHT. Add to my 2358/24. Do not enter area M until further orders.
(V.A. Malta, 0750/25, to UPRIGHT.)

CAVALLO. British 2269 tons. Your 1839/21. S.S.CAVALLO sunk at Nauplia on 24/4(?) by enemy action, all crew saved. (P.S.T.O., Egypt, 10210/25, to Admty.)

Suez Canal Ar Mining. Operational Summary No. 349 up to 1200 hours 25/5/41 in 5 parts. Part 1 begins. Egypt, night 23/5 - 24/5. Enemy aircraft dropped 14 mines and 9 bombs in the Suez Canal Zone of which 9 mines and 6 bombs exploded on impact. Remainder unexploded are in Great Bitter Lake area. Enemy departed North from Port Said.

Maleme bombed. Night May 23/24. In co-operation with bombardment of enemy positions by H.M. Ships 9 Wellingtons bombed enemy aircraft on beach and aerodrome at Maleme destroying 1 large aircraft and starting large fire on aerodrome. 4 large 1 small fire started on beach 3 Wellingtons missing. Day 24/5.R/C. reported no shipping at sea between Crete Meloj and Ydra Islands.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1116/25.)

Enemy Cruisers. One 6" cruiser and two 8" cruisers in 035° 04' N., 015° 33' E., at 1040 B, course 010° 25 knots, alter course to 020° at 1048B.(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1144B/25, 1156B/25, to Med. Fleet.)

TRIUMPH. Estimated position TRIUMPH noon C/26 032° 16' 027° 30' course 290° proceeding submerged (Capt. S.1, 1551C/25, to Med. Fleet at Sea.)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.8.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

General.(contd).

Enemy Destroyers.	Some Italian destroyers in 037° 07' N., 023° 25' E., at 1435 G.M.T./25. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 18200/25, to R.A. 1 B.S., R.A. (A) Med., AJAX.-
Suez Canal.	Situation report. Mine at 94.5 exploded by L.L. Sweeper. Dangerous area between Kms, 91 and 97 is cancelled. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 20010/25.)
Enemy Units.	My 1156B/25. 2 8" Cruisers and 3 Destroyers in position 090° Augusta 25 miles course 010° zigzagging at 20 knots at 1625B/25. 2 Destroyers in 037° 38' N., 015° 18' E., course 30° 15 knots and 4 Destroyers East of Syracuse 15 miles course 355° 20 knots at 1640 B/25. T.O.O. 2154B/25. (V.A.Malta, 2157B/25, to S/M's on Patrol.)
UNION.	My 1521 B/22. Cancel reference area L which is heavily compromised by previous action. Proceed through 036° 00' 013° 00' and 035° 20'015° 00' to operate in area 0,035° 00' 015° 20' (etc.) Indications are fast convoy proceeding South down approx., 015° 45' and altering course for Tripoli about latitude 035°. Aircraft reconnaissance shows Schooners and A/S ships based Lampedusa.(Cdr. S.1, 2240B/25, to UNION.)
Lampedusa Cucumbers laid.	Special Ops. Summary. Since now apparent Lampedusa Harbour used as refuge small M/V's on Sicily Tripoli route 4 Swordfish 830 Sqn., despatched to lay cucumbers there night 25/26. A 5th Swordfish carried flares but owing electrical failure no flares dropped. Illuminating cartridges lit Harbour short periods enabling 2 cucumbers to be laid near entrance. Exact positions not plotted. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta, 2300/25.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete.

AJAX. Your 1438C/24 and your 1642C/24. No convoy sighted. Cannot reach positions given. Am withdrawing through (? Kaso). (AJAX, 0227C/25, to C. in C. Med.)

ABDIEL. Proceeding speed 34 knots. (ABDIEL, 0230/25, to AJAX.) Sailed 0245 with (?60) Walking wounded etc., and four Greek (ministers) on board. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0257Z/25, to C. in C.Med.)

ISIS. When well clear or opportunity offers signal number landed night 24/25th at Sphakia and whether M.L. 1011 was there. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 0730/25, to ISIS.) W.D. Note:- No Landing, see 0800 etc.

ISIS landing postponed. Weather conditions prevented landing troops. We would like to try again tonight if weather and oil fuel situation permit. My **P.C.** and **S.** are at 0700 023° 41' N., 024° 51' E., 120° 22 knots, (?oil fuel) remaining 240. Three borrowed whalers stove in. (ISIS, 0800C/25, to C. in C. Med.) Your 0800/25. Approved to try again tonight if possible. Report intention later. (C. in C. Med., 1156C/25, to ISIS.) In view of adverse weather conditions and very small margin of oil fuel reluctantly consider attempt should be postponed. Col. Laycock concurs. E.T.A. Alexandria 1900. (ISIS, 1410C/25, to C. in C. Med.).

Destroyers to R.V. AJAX. My 2324C/24, amend position to read 033° 30' N., 027° 00' E. (C. in C. Med., 0906C/25, to R.A.(D) Med.)

/F.A.A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd).

Destroyers to R.V. AJAX. (CONTD).

My 2324/24. Sweep into Aegean again tonight and conditions allowing bombard Maleme provided that you can get well clear to Southward by daylight otherwise withdraw by Kaso Strait and fall back on R.A. (D) Med., at R.V. appointed by him.

F.A.A. attack Scarpanto.

F.A.A. from FORMIDABLE will be attacking Scarpanto aerodrome about dawn /26. (C. in C. Med., 1043C/25, to AJAX.)

NAPIER
KELVIN
JACKAL.

P.C. and S., at 1100 013° 16' N., 029° 27' E., 317° 30 knots. (Capt. D.7. 1053/25, to AJAX.)

AJAX R.V.

C. in C. Med.'s 2324C/24. R.V. at (? 1600 or 0200) 033° 20' N., 027° 42'E., course 333° 25 knots. (AJAX, 1107C/25, to R.A.D. Med.)

Bombing of Canea.

Enemy made a very heavy bombing attack West of Canea and on Western end of Canea itself accompanied by intense machine gunning 24/5. Numerous fires burning last night and refugees leaving town. Situation at Heraklion, Retimo, believed unchanged. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1111c/25, to C. in C. Med.)

JAGUAR.

Your 1234 (N.T. in W.R.) JAGUAR should return Alexandria when VOYAGER and KANDAHAR join. (R.A.D. Med., 1306C/25, to Capt.D.14.

V.A.L.F.

C. in C. Med., 1043/25. V.A.L.F. will be in 034° 10' N., 025° 50' E., at 0700/26 steering 160° speed 17 knots. (V.A.L.F., 1324/25, to AJAX.)

/FIJI.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd).

FIJI.
GREYHOUND.
JUNO.
KELLY.
KASHMIR.
GLOUCESTER.

Following is summary of survivors (numbers) who have arrived Alexandria:-
2. Regret no news of any survivors from GLOUCESTER but I hope number may have reached either Kithera Island or Crete. They were left with ample boats and rafts dropped by other ship as well as their own, but as survivors in GREYHOUND's boats were heavily machine gunned, it is likely GLOUCESTER's boats were similarly treated. (C. in C. Med. 1517/25, to Admty.)

PARTHIAN.

Left Alexandria 2000C/23 to Patrol off Dardanelles routed through 034° 10' 029° 30' at noon C/24 thence through Scarpan to P.M./25 and east of Stampalia and Skyros.

TRIUMPH.

Will leave Alexandria 2000C/25 to patrol in Gulf of Sirte routed through 031° 46' 029° 04' and 033° 03' 025° 00' Port Castries 2300C/27 to arrive off Benghazi P.M/29. (Capt. S.1. 1555C/25 to C. in C. Med.)

Aegean.
Recco.

Request you will repeat morning and evening reconnaissances in Aegean on 26/5. (C. in C. Med., 1743C/25 to 204 Group).

Enemy A/Cs
Maleme.

Reconnaissance of Maleme p.m. and indicates tendency to move enemy aircraft concentrations westward and southward from Maleme. Aircraft and Gliders in field approx., 1 mile west of Maleme also in same neighbourhood 15 JU 52 and ME 109 on mouth of White Point immediately west of landing ground. (C. in C. Med., 1857C/25, to AJAX).

/Sweep.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

German Attack on Crete. (contd).

Sweep by AJAX'S force. Supply situation ashore. Medical problem.

My 2112C/24 weather prevented landing troops on South Coast of Crete on night 24/25th and is again unsuitable tonight. Enemy has apparently not attempted landing by seaborne troops since breaking up of his convoys on 22nd.
(2) AJAX's force swept North Coast of Crete but sighted nothing. Force was unable to reach Macome in time to bombard and get clear by daylight.
(3) PERSEUS has been ordered to examine Melos and take such offensive action as possible against any shipping there. Supply situation in Crete is causing much anxiety.
(4) Endeavouring to alleviate it by sending small quantities to Suda Bay in destroyers and convoy of three ships sails for Suda on 27th but even if this latter arrives safely ships will have to be beached and may become total loss from air attack.
(5) The medical problem is also disquieting In view of deliberate (word omitted - probably "attacks") on hospital ships it seems useless to send them to Crete despite the fact that they are most urgently needed yet my hands still remain tied as regards the enemy hospital ships owing to failure to answer my 1254/26/4 or 1150/18/ (C. in C. Med. 1913/25 to Admty.)

Enemy A/C's.

Following received:-
14 Aircraft bearing 270° height unknown course 315° my position 056 32° N., 24° E. 22. (GNAT, 1916/25, to Alexandria W/T.)

/Air Protection

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

German Attack on Crete. (contd).

Air Protection. Kaso Strait.

My 1801C/25. Request fighter protection P.M./26, and from daylight 27/5 in vicinity of Kaso Strait. My 1043 C/25. Request fighter protection as required by AJAX at daylight 26/5.
(C. in C. Med., 2011C/25, to H.Q., M.E.)

Crete, Need for Avoiding Delay.

Chiefs of Staff No. 116 to C. in C. Med., and Cs. in C. Middle East. Ref. C. in C. M.E., telegram O/67119 cypher 24/5. If situation is allowed to drag on, the enemy will have the advantage, because he will be able to reinforce the island to a considerable extent with men and stores. Essential therefore that Cs. in C. should concert measures for clearing up situation without delay. In so doing Fleet and R.A.F. must accept whatever risk is entailed in preventing any considerable reinforcement of men and material.
Should air R/C show any movement by sea or any collection of craft at Melo, it will be essential for the Fleet to operate North of the island by day. Probable that losses incurred in so doing will be considerable and only experience will show for how many days this situation can be maintained. This confirms that time is the dominating factor.
(1st. S.L., 2132B/25 to C. in C. Med.,)
W.O., 2335/25 to C. in C. M.E.)

Canea and Suda Bay bombed.

Heavy bombing of Canea and just westward continues. Suda Bay area machine gunned during afternoon. P.W. S.S. hit by bomb this evening. Cdr. Salisbury, E.D.O. and 1 Yeoman killed. P.W.S.S. has been re established topographically. Strong enemy attack in Maleme - Canea area commenced just before dark backed up by heavy bombing of our forward area.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 2301C/25, to C. in C. Med.)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Attack on Crete. (contd).

Situation Report.

My 1913/25. ABDIEL has returned from landing stores and ammunition at Suda Bay and is re-embarking S.S. Troops who could not be landed from destroyers due to weather. ABDIEL sails again tonight 25/26 with two destroyers carrying remainder of personnel. AJAX, DIDO, and 3 destroyers are repeating sweep north of Crete tonight 25/26. QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM, FORMIDABLE have sailed to attack Scarpanto early a.m./26 with aircraft from FORMIDABLE. GLENROY, COVENTRY, and two destroyers sailed 2000/25 to land troops and stores on Tymbaki beach night 26/27. Convoy A.N. 31 of 3 ships sails 0500/26 for Suda with stores. There is no fighter protection for any of these operations. PERSEUS should be off Melos. Reconnaissance reports no shipping north of Crete to Stamfalia Melos Cape Malia today 25th.

GRIMSBY feared sunk.

2. Western Desert. Feared GRIMSBY has been sunk by air attack 40 miles N.E. of Tobruk and also HELKA whom she was escorting no details yet. No fighter protection available.

3. Submarines. In addition to V.A. Malta's 1226/23 UNBEATEN probably sunk merchant vessel 5000 tons in 3847 N., 1400 E., at 1240/19 URGE sank one 7,000 ton tanker and one 9,000 ton transport steering south in 4546 N., 1154 E., at 1015/20. 1300/21, URGE also sank one destroyer escorting two cruisers in 35.30 N., 12.25 E. (C. in C. Med., 23050/25 to Admty).
My 23050/25. These sinkings were already reported in V.A. Malta's 1226/22.
(C. in C. Med., 16440/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.8.A.
HAWKINS,
SHROPSHIRE,
CORNWALL.

N.O.i/c Simonstown 1044/24 not to Admiralty and C of S.T. 0300/8. Group B ships available at Durban will sail about 2/6 from Durban in company W.S.8A escorted by HAWKINS. Intend SHROPSHIRE to escort group A. Request SHROPSHIRE be sailed for Durban accordingly on completion of trials. Cancel my 1222/21, CORNWALL is to complete repairs at Durban.
(C. in C. E.I., 0808Z/25, to C. in C. S.A.)

U.S.11 tankers.

Further to Admty., 1459B/17, two tankers can be provided for fuelling. In view of C. in C. Med.'s 1255/17 and as no other distilling ship can be provided, a third tanker will be provided cleaned and filled with water in time for U.S.11. Will special arrangements also be necessary for watering and fuelling these three ships on their return voyage from U.S.11. to Australia? From security view point ship may anchor outside the boom under conditions given in your 1228/4.
(D.O.D. (H) 1034B/25, to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

Japanese Seizure of Chinese Cargoes Haiphong:

Following received from Vice-Consul Haiphong Yesterday after warning French Authorities Japanese demanded keys of all godowns containing Chinese goods. Today they are loading the goods on to their transports. Cargo ship SUMAHARU about 10,000 tons arrived this morning empty, presumably loading seized goods.

/DELIMARU.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Japanese Seizure of Chinese Cargoes, Haiphong. Contd.

DELIMARU also arrived. French Authorities ordered owners to give up goods to Japanese. French ship CHENONCEAUX sailing for Manila today. (Ends.)
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 1212Z/25, to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

LONDON.

Is to proceed at 23 knots towards 25° 30' N., 42° 00' W., where it is thought enemy Tanker may be waiting, and to search the surrounding area. It may prove possible to arrange R/C by U.S. Forces. The possibility of a U-Boat accompanying the Tanker should be borne in mind.
(1st. Sea Lord. 0006/25, to LONDON.)
Cancelled, see 0053B/26.

Canadian Units, Base at St. John's.

Your 2011B/24. My 2106X/21 refers to all R.C.N. destroyers, 8 of which are under Admiralty control. SKEENA ST. LAURENT and GEORGETOWN complete refit mid June and will be available shortly afterwards. ST CROIX and ANAPOLIS are being retained at Halifax for local escorts. The seven corvettes have had a normal working up period and are in and efficient state.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0345Z/25, to Admty.)

THUNDERBOLT.

My 1653 P/24. THUNDERBOLT sailed 0630 P/25. (B.S.3., 0645P/25, to Admty.)

B.H.X. 129.

Admty., 1312B/25. .B.H.X. 129 is being sailed to arrive at junction position D.D. at 1200Z/30. All orders issued to convoy postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/25, to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)
C. in C. A.W.I., 1222Q/24. BHX 129 is to be sailed as soon as possible. Time of sailing of HX 129 is to be adjusted to conform.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1312B/25, to C. in C. A.W.I., C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

/KING GEORGE V...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

KING GEORGE V. class, docking.

An urgent requirement for docking a 'KING GEORGE' Class may arise. Request American Authorities be asked to prepare special blocks and a dock for this purpose. Report should be forwarded where docking could be arranged and date when dock could be ready. (D. of D. 1256B/25, to B.A.R.M.)

U.S. Naval Officers.

Policy re supply of information (A.C.N.S.(F) to B.A.R.M., 1555B/25) See Lion Copy.

REPULSE.

Is proceeding to Concepcion Bay to refuel and may arrive there by p.m./26. Oiler should be sailed to R.V. with her there. Request you will communicate best anchorage to REPULSE and arrange all possible A/S protection (V.C.N.S. 1712B/25, to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)
Divert ROYALITE and comply with Admty. 1712B/25. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1935Z/25 to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.)

SHEHERAZADE (French).

Your 0621B/23 and D. of S.T. 1623B/23. Crew of French SHEHERAZADE disembarked 24/5. Every effort made to induce them to join Free French cause. No volunteers so far obtained and whole crew now interned. (Chief reasons for lack of success) Cargo. Intend to attempt to recruit crew for SHEHERAZADE by all available means. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1751Q/25, to Admty.)

Australia.

U.S. 11.
U.S. 11½.

Composition etc. Request anticipated date of sailing. (D. of S.T. 1033B/25 to A.C.N.B)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.5.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ELUSA (torpedoed 21/5.) — Your 1716B/23. In view of situation ZWARTE ZEE and BUTTERMERE were not sent. Propose to send ZWARTE ZEE to U.K. with S.D.4. TENACITY could be sent if salvage still considered possible. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1010/25. to C. in C.W.A.)

RODNEY STAR. BERHALA. — N.C.S.O. Takoradi's 1900/23. Only Chief Officers Boat of RODNEY STAR unaccounted for with 18 Survivors including Capt. Fotheringill RN. BOREAS has on board 60 Survivors of BERHALA reported torpedoed 23rd May in 09° 50' N., 17°50' N., (? W) 23 survivors from BRITISH GRENADIER picked up by Portuguese GANDA landed Freetown 24th May. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1122N/25.)

PIAKO. (torpedoed 18/5.) — British, 8286 tons, now appears was torpedoed and sunk in 7.52 N., 14.57 W. (D.S.628, 25/5.)

MARISA. (torpedoed 16/5.) — Dutch tanker, 8029 tons, is now reported to have sunk. 4 officers and 9 Chinese arrived Freetown 21/5. (D.S. 628, 25/5.)

BENVENUE. (torpedoed 15/5.) — British, 5920 tons, is now reported to have sunk. (D.S. 628,25/5.)

ALFRED OLSEN. (torpedoed 10/5.) — Ship FEURENT MEEUS (Belgian) arrived Curacao 25/5 having picked up 16 members of crew of Norwegian ship ALFRED OLSEN on 14/5 in 004° 55' N., 017° 15'. Ship torpedoed by Submarine. Norwegian Consul informed of names of survivors which include two British Officers who joined Ship at Capetown.
(S.N.O. Curacao, 1731/25, to C. in C.A.W.I.
Ship presumed to have sunk. (D.S.629,26/5.

/BENVRACKIE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.5.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ship's Attacked. Contd.

BENVRACKIE. My 2114/23. BENVRACKIE sunk by one torpedo at 0630 ships time/13. Chinese survivors stated 4 days before being torpedoed BENVRACKIE picked up 25 survivors from another ship name unknown four being passengers including one woman,
Ship sank in 10 minutes.
(C. in C. S.A. 2042N/25, to Adty.)

S/M's Reported.

0710. By D/F at 0710 z/25. An Italian S/M within 50 miles of 45° N., - 2° W.
Possibly outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1026B/25, to S/M's on Patrol.)

0955. A/C reports S/M in 055° 53' N., 012° 45' W., at 0955B.
(C. in C. W.A., 1107B/25, to SALISBURY.)

1123. At 1123 G.M.T. German U-Boat bearing 319° 2nd class from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1247B/25 to N.A. Stn.)

1018. By D/F at 1018 G.M.T. Italian U/B in 46° N., 11° 30' W. Unreliable fix. Homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1313B/25.)

1153. Southbound U-boat in 044° 38' 009° 14' at 1153A. Not seen or detected after PANDORA dived. (PANDORA, 1346A/25 to Admty.)
Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1436B/25.) (F.O.S., 1701B/25.)

1645. By D/F at 1645 G.M.T. Italian U/Boat in Bay of Biscay between 5° 30' and 6° 30' W., latitude uncertain, probably outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1930B/25.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.5.1941.
Sunday.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

By A/C 1350/23.

A/C on Search No. 2. Area Biscay on 23/5/41. 1350 Message received Base "Have attacked enemy S/M with Bombs 'level' 46.08 N., 01.15 W. Returning to base engine trouble may be forced to land without further notice." 1715. (Approx.) Crashed Penzance. All members of crew injured. Crew not in fit state to be interrogated, but it appears they made a series of attacks on a surfaced S/M in La Rochelle area, one bomb said to have fallen within ten feet of U/B. A/C also machine gunned U Boat and it was apparently during this part of the engagement that A/C was hit by gun on U/Boat. (R.C.H.Q., Plymouth, 1030/25, to Admty.) Details of attack, see 2205/29.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BISMARCK AND PRINZ EUGEN.

The enemy remained unlocated since touch was lost early yesterday morning. At 0011B the Admiralty ordered MANCHESTER who had been fuelling at Hvaal Fiord, with ARETHUSA and BIRMINGHAM, to send one cruiser to watch the Denmark Straits and the remaining two the Iceland-Faeroes passage; they left at 0238B. VICTORIOUS and KENYA were in 57° 27' N. 30° 44' W. at 0100B, endeavouring to locate and attack the enemy if he were making for the Faeroes-Iceland passage. The weather became unsuitable for flying and at 0955B VICTORIOUS reported that she was proceeding with KENYA to Hvaal Fiord. At 1328B the Adty. ordered VICTORIOUS to the Clyde to fuel. SUFFOLK at 1015B was ordered to proceed to search an area 58° N. to 57° N. between 50° W. and 44° W. for supply ships.

BIZMARCK sighted.

At 1030 a Catalina aircraft reported BISMARCK in 49° 33' N. 21° 47' W. steering 150° at 20 knots. At 1114B ARK ROYAL's aircraft reported BISMARCK in 49° 32' N. 20° 55' W, course 110° speed 20 knots. Visibility was very patchy and shadowing intermittent. C. in C. H.F. was in 51° 33' N 20° 43' W., closing the enemy at 26 knots. Shadowing aircraft and also C. in C. H.F. in chase were attacked by enemy aircraft and a Catalina was damaged. S.O. Force H reported his position at 1248 49° 30' N 19° 10' E, steering 350°. SHEFFIELD was detached to shadow; she made contact at 1740 and continued to shadow so throughout the day. RENOWN had orders not to become engaged with BISMARCK unless the latter was already heavily engaged by either KING GEORGE V or RODNEY.

/Straits.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BISMARCK AND PRINZ EUGEN. (contd).

Straits of Gibraltar to be patrolled.

At 1228B the Admiralty ordered air and submarine patrols to prevent the possible passage of the enemy into the Mediterranean. Certain orders regarding Spanish territorial waters were given. SEVERN was ordered at 1122 to return to Gibraltar at maximum speed to establish an offensive patrol in the Straits. NELSON had been ordered to proceed to Gibraltar at 0036B from Freetown where she arrived yesterday.

C. in C.H.F. reduces speed.

At 1705 KING GEORGE had to reduce speed to 22 knots in order to economize fuel. Her position at 1800 was 49° (?48') N, 17° 33' W, steering 110°, with RODNEY in company. Unless the enemy's speed was reduced C. in C H.F. in KING GEORGE V intended to return to refuel at 2400B, leaving RODNEY to continue the pursuit, but without destroyer escort.

SHEFFIELD in contact.

SHEFFIELD, detached from Force H was in touch with the enemy at 1747. At 2140 the enemy fired 6 accurate salvoes at her and caused some casualties and slight damage. SHEFFIELD lost touch but put a destroyer on to the enemy and then kept clear 14 miles to the westward.

F.A.A. attacks.

A striking force from ARK ROYAL left at 1500/B. It failed to make direct contact and was forced to search. A ship was eventually located in poor visibility and was unsuccessfully attacked by 11 aircraft. This was apparently SHEFFIELD, who avoided all torpedoes. A second force left at 1900 and at 2225B S.O. Force H reported that one hit had been scored amidships and a possible second hit on the starbourd quarter, after which the BISMARCK reduced speed and turned two complete circles. The senior surviving officer of BISMARCK afterwards stated that it was this latter hit which reduced BISMARC speed and so ensured her subsequent destruct

/Further.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN

F.A.A. attacks -contd.

Further air attack was not possible tonight but dawn attack would be carried out tomorrow. The estimated position of the enemy at 2130B was 47° 45' N., 15° 25' E., steering 330° at 22 knots. RENOWN was in 48° 17' N., 15° 50' E., steering 20° at 20 knots at 2100B SEALION was patrolling on a line 260° from position, 48° 20' N., 5° 15' W; the remaining 5 submarines were ordered to move their patrol 30 miles 162°.

Capt. (D) 4 in touch.

At 2300B COSSACK in 242° 48° N., 15° W., 19 miles was in touch with BISMARCK bearing 115° 7 miles, course 60°. By 2320 the enemy had altered course to 340°.

British Air Operations

Owing to the operations against BISMARCK H.M. Ships may be forced to use Plymouth and Milford Haven for fuelling or repairing during 27/5 to 30/5 inclusive. The Air Ministry have ordered special measures to be taken for protection of Plymouth and Milford Haven, the operational aerodromes in the S.W. and fighter protection for H.M. Ships to as great a depth to seaward as practicable.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. DIANA was attacked by machine gun fire 5 times between 0500 and 0545 in 61° 35' N. 11° 6' W. She was undamaged and had one slight casualty.

Steam Trawler H.E. STROUD was bombed at 1830B and was abandoned off Lamb Head, Stronsay.

S.S. GROS PIERRE has been damaged off Sunderland and has been beached.

Mining.

Mines were detonated today off the Humber, Milford Haven and Liverpool.

Liverpool is to be closed at night until further notice.

Mediterranean.

Libyan operations.

Operation against Derna.

Unexpectedly heavy scale of air attack against shipping along the coast has interfered temporarily with the combined operation arranged against Derna by APHIS and S.S. troops. It is hoped to carry out a modified form of the operation tonight.

/Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.5.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Libyan Operations-Contd

Air Operations	The merchant vessel which was reported to have been hit 8 times on 22/5 in position 15 miles 20° Pantellaria was seen anchored today in 34° 50' N., 11° 26' E., and was attacked twice by Blenheims. 3 further hits are reported, all of which bounced off the deck.
Tobruk	Air raids were carried out on Tobruk last night and today. APHIS and GRIMSBY were heavily attacked: APHIS was slightly damaged; she shot down 2 of the enemy.
Zuara	It is reported that the port of Tripoli has been severely damaged and that the Axis powers are now using the port of Zura (? Zuara) and that shipping is proceeding there by Tunisian territorial waters.

Attack on Crete

Situation	C. in C. Med. this evening in an important signal reported on the strategical situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, tactical considerations in the battle for Crete, morale and state of officers and men and machinery in the light forces.
Naval Operations FORMIDABLE NUBIAN, 4 destroyers damaged.	AJAX, DIDO and 3 destroyers repeated last night their sweep north of Crete, but sighted no enemy. They were unable to bombard Maleme as arranged, owing to bad weather.

/FORMIDABLE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

Naval Operations. FORMIDABLE NUBIAN, 4 destroyers damaged. (contd).

FORMIDABLE, operated with her aircraft against Scarpanto early this morning, accompanied by QUEEN ELIZABETH and BARHAM. FORMIDABLE was bombed and damaged at 1312 today in 32° 55' N. 26° 25' E. NUBIAN in company with the battle fleet was also hit and had her stern blown off, but was able to steam at considerable speed. This necessitated cancelling the attack on Milo by destroyers arranged for tonight, owing to the necessity of escorting NUBIAN to Alexandria. At least one aircraft was set on fire and a considerable number were shot up on Scarpanto aerodrome by the F.A.A. attack. FORMIDABLE'S aircraft shot down 6 enemy aircraft today.

C. in C. Med. reports this evening that in 3 days, in addition to casualties already reported (2 cruisers and 4 destroyers sunk, 1 battleship and 2 cruisers damaged) 4 more destroyers have suffered considerable damage.

Reinforcements.

The weather again prevented the landing of troops on the south coast of Crete last night.

S.S. VASCO and MARIT MAERSK escorted by CALCUTTA and AUCKLAND left Alexandria at 0500 today, with military stores and ammunition due at Suda Bay shortly after daylight on 28th. S.S. ALFIOS left at 1000C escorted by DEFENDER, with foodstuffs due at Heraklion 1200C/28.

At 2128C IMPERIAL, KIMBERLEY and HOTSPUR were ordered to embark troops and sail by -Kaso Strait to arrive at Suda Bay 2359/27 and leave for Alexandria after disembarking troops. Fighter protection was asked for.

ABDIEL and destroyers are continuing to Suda tonight with S.S. troops.

/GLENROY.....

MOST SECRET

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Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Attack on Crete

Reinforcements -Contd.

GLENROY, who left Alexandria yesterday evening with COVENTRY and 2 destroyers to land troops and stores on Tymbaki beach tonight was heavily bombed and was hit and damaged at 1826 in 195° 35° N., 25° E., 40 miles. She is unable to continue the operation tonight: a third of her landing craft are out of action, all army petrol burnt or overboard, and she had to lose much time turning down wind etc. At 0017C C. in C. Med. ordered her to return to Alexandria. GLENROY herself was not seriously damaged and is fit for service.

Air Operations

Four Wellingtons last night bombed the aerodrome and beach at Maleme. Two Wellingtons bombed Scarpanto aerodrome. Hurricanes this afternoon shot down 5 or more JU 52's filled with troops at Maleme, and damaged many on Maleme aerodrome and the neighbouring fields, by machine gun fire. Two squadrons of Blenheims and one of Marylands bombed Maleme at dusk, setting fire to many aircraft on the ground.

All R.A.F. personnel (19 officer, 180 airmen) except a small signal staff are are being despatched to Sphakia for evacuation.

Enemy shipping

Air R/C today reported 6 merchant ships 200 ft. long at Heraklion, 6 small coastal ships at Retimo, with numerous caiques at both places, one destroyer or merchant ship and one small merchant ship at Milo Island.

Military Operations

During the day the enemy forced our troops from positions west of Canea.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

C. in C. A.W.I. reported this morning that VAN KINSBERGEN had intercepted the French S.S. WINNIPEG in 14° 52' N. 60° 38' W. and was escorting her to Trinidad.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.C.O.S. — A.C.O.S. has disembarked Reykjavik to complete visit and inspection and awaiting next convenient opportunity for passage Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0238/26)

HEEMSKERK. — Request date HEEMSKERK should be ready for foreign service. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1311B/26)

DAGMAR intercepted. — Intercepted Finnish DAGMAR 062° 35' N. 013° 42' W. Evaded Faroes. Too rough for boarding Am escorting to Faroes. Request instructions (CAPE PORTLAND 2145B/26).

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN. — Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. H.F. one cruiser is to proceed to watch the Denmark Straits and the remaining two the Iceland-Faeroes passage. (C.N.S. 0011B/26 to MANCHESTER).
Admy 1419/25. Have searched area 080° to 180° from position 058° N. 032° 45' W. to depth of 100 mls. Nothing sighted. P.C. and S. of VICTORIOUS and KENYA at 0100B/26 057° 27' N. 030° 44' W. 060°, 27 knots, intending to endeavour to locate and attack enemy ship fixed at 1320/25 if making Faeroes Iceland passage subsequently proceeding Hval Fiord to replenish KENYA with oil. VICTORIOUS's fuel 67% and able therefor to remain atsea if escort can be provided. Intend GALATEA and AURORA to part company from VICTORIOUS at 0100 and screen PRINCE OF WALES from dawn 26th if destroyers have not arrived. (C.S.2 0021B/26 to C. in C.H.F)

/S/M H....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.5.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN - Contd.

S/M H. 44 sails from Holyhead 1700/25 escorted vicinity Bishop Rock thence proceeding unescorted on surface to patrol position. (F.O.S. 0121B/26 to SEALION).
COSSACK, SIKH, ZULU joining C. in C. H.F. forthwith position 2200B/25 054° 07' N. 029° 18' W. course 117° 26 knots.
(2) MAORI, FIORUN joining RODNEY forthwith. Estimated position 0001B/26 052° 40' N., 025° 45' W., course 113° 20 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 0159B/26 to Capt. D.4.)
RODNEY estimated position 0001B/26 052° 40' N., 025° 45' W., Course 113. Speed 20 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 0202/26 to R.A.D.H.F.)
Cancel my 1049B/25. Proceed Londonderry. Complete with fuel. Orders follow. (R.A.D. H.F. 0216B/26 to JUPITER)
Your 2238/25. A screen of three destroyers each for KING GEORGE V and RODNEY will be provided. (D.O.D. H. 0220B/26 to C. in C. H.F.) MANCHESTER and BIRMINGHAM proceeding to take up Iceland Faeroes patrol making 25 knots. ARETHUSA Eastward of Q.Z.X. 241 (MANCHESTER 0238B/26 to C. in C. H.F.)
Admiralty 0011B/26. Intend to patrol to Eastward of Q.Z.X. 366 and 241 reaching patrol 1400B/today. (ARETHUSA 0300B/26 to MANCHESTER)
Unless otherwise ordered proceed forthwith to screen VICTORIOUS estimated position 1700B/25 57° 42' N., 35° 40' W., course 070° 27 knots. (R.A.D. H.F. 0310B/26 to ICARUS, ECHO, WINDSOR)
My 0216B/26. When completed with fuel join RODNEY in estimated position 0001B/26 52° 40' N., 25° 45' W. course 113° 20 knots. (R.A.D. H.F. 0315B/26 to JUPITER)
Your 0310B/26. ECHO proceeded with ELECTRA. Am taking ANTELOPE with me. (?ICARUS 0515Z/26 to R.A.D. H.F.)
My P.C. and S. are at 0500B/26 057° 51' N., 025° 23' W. 060° 27 knots. (SUFFOLK 0517B/26
Sailing SAGUENAY, ASSINIBOINE, ACTIVE from Hval Fiord to screen VICTORIOUS at 0830B/26 (Capt. D.3. 0553B/26)

/Sailed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.5.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN -Contd.

Sailed MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, ARETHUSA 0300. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0927/26)
My P.C. and S. are at 0900B/ 052° 13' N., 020° 40' W., 087° 21½knots altering to 120° at 1400B. If no contact by 2000B intend to proceed to Londonderry arriving with 13% fuel remaining. (C.S. 18 0940B/26)
Weather unsuitable for flying. Am proceeding with KENYA to Hval Fiord. Destroyers wait me at R/V 063° N., 028° W. till further signal. My position 0930B/26 039° 05' N., 026° 05' W. (VICTORIOUS 0955B/26)
D.3.S. 0553B/26. Screen has already proceeded to VICTORIOUS. SAGUANAY, ASSINIBOINE ACTIVE proceed Londonderry with despatch and await further orders. (R.A.D. H.F. 1010B/26) Proceed to search area 58° N., to 57° N. between meridians of 50° W., and 44° W., for supply ships, subsequently fuelling Newfoundland on relief by REPULSE about 29/5 (A.C.N.S. H. 1015B/26 to SUFFOLK)
Admiralty 1015/26 has been repeated also to REPULSE. (War Registry)
One battleship bearing 240° distance 5 miles position 49° 33' N., 21° 47' W., (A/C Duty Z 1030/26.)
My 1030. Enemy course an d speed 150° 20 knots position 49° 28' N., 21° 50' W. (A/C Duty Z 1035/26)
My 1010B/26. Screen for VICTORIOUS and PRINCE OF WALES arranged and sailed. BEDOUIN, IMPULSIVE ordered to Reykjvik. Leave one more destroyer to complete screen for REPULSE if required. Proceed with remainder to Londonderry with despatch. (R.A.D. H.F. 1045B/26 to Capt. D.3.)
Aircraft of 15 Group's 1030. Request check not RODNEY. My position 051° 37' N., 020° 42' W., closing ship reported at 26 knots. (C. in C. H.F. 1051/26)

RENOWN and BISMARCK

RENOWN is not to become engaged with BISMARCK unless BISMARCK is already heavily engaged by either KING GEORGE V or RODNEY. (1st S.L. 1052B/26 to F.O. Force H.)

/Cut....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN. (contd)

Cut corner and proceed via Wolf Rock and not Bishop Rock. Every minute saved is important.
H.44 pass to P;C. 74. (F.O.S. 1059B/26 to H.44).
My ? 1030. Have lost touch with enemy. Enemy's last observed position was 49° 22' N. 21° 44' W. at 1045. (A/C Duty Z, 1100/26)
BISMARCK has received some damage and probable torpedo hit. She reduced speed progressively from 28 knots and when last seen at 0200B/25 in 056° 40' N. 036° 18' W. was doing 22 knots. This may not however be the maximum speed of which she is now capable. (F.O.S. 1101B/26 to S/M's Area A)
1 Battleship bearing 150 distance 8 miles course 127 position 292° 49° N. 19° W. 83 based on Admirals Reference position at 0700. Enemy speed 20 knots. (A/C from ARK ROYAL 1114/26) (S.O. Force H. 1114/26 to Whitehall W/T)
ARK ROYAL aircraft report enemy battleship in 049° 32' N. 020° 55' W. at 1114B/26. Course 110° 20 knots. Aircraft using 210 KC/S.
My P.C. and S. are at 1100/26 051° 33' N. 020° 43' W. course 150° altering to 130° at 1155. 26 knots. (C. in C.H.F. 1210/26 to Adty).
Return to Gibraltar at maximum speed to establish offensive patrol in Straits of Gibraltar in case BISMARCK or PRINZ EUGEN endeavour to pass into Mediterranean and CAIRNDALE and CITY OF DIEPPE are to continue in accordance with previous orders. (V.C.N.S. 1220B/26 to SEVENN).
Your 1051/26. Enemy ship reported by aircraft at 1030 is hostile. (A.C.N.S. H. 1225B/26 to C. in C.H.F).
Amty. 895A/28/3/41. Cruisers and above at sea on Home Stations are to be prepared to display following identification marks. Executive signal will follow. (D.S.D. 1227B/26).

/BISMARCK.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN (contd)

BISMARCK reported by Catalina aircraft in 49° 33 N. 21° 47 W. course 150° speed 20 knots. Establish air and submarine patrols to prevent possible passage into Mediterranean Patrols are to take preference over convoy escort duties. Spanish territorial waters need not be respected for this operation. -(V.C.N.S. 1228B/26 to F.O.C.N.A) Cancelled. See North Atlantic. 1721B/27.
My 1200. Vessels reported are not objective. (A/C Duty M. 1240/26 to 15 (R) Group HQ)
Estimated P.C. and S. enemy Battleship at 1215B - 049° 10', 020° 10' 110° 20. ARK ROYAL aircraft in touch. My P.C. and S 1248B 049° 30' 019° 10' 350° 15 Torpedo Bomber striking at about 1500. (S.O Force H. 1301B/26).
Proceed to Clyde to fuel. Instruct your screen to R/V as necessary. (1st S.L. 1328B/26 to VICTORIOUS).
From evidence of independent witnesses now accumulated it seems fairly certain 3 ships were present when NORFOLK first made contact at 2031/23. Rear ship smaller and thought to be destroyer turned North East to NORFOLK. SUFFOLK may have confirmatory evidence from RD/F. Definitely only 2 ships present during action with C.S.1. (C.S.1. 1345B/26 to Admty.)
My 1301. Estimated P.C. and S. of enemy battleship at 1315B 049° 10' 019° 45' 130°. 21 knots my P.C. and S. are at 1345B 049° 40' 018° 53' 120° 18 knots. SHEFFIELD detached to shadow. (S.O. Force H. 1345B/26).
Am carrying out observation duty shadowing Battleship. (A/C Duty M. 1405/26 to 15 (R) Group H.Q).
My 1301. Estimated P.C. and S. of enemy at 1500 048° 24' 018° 46' 110° 25 knots. My P.C. and S. at 1515B 049° 14' 018° 19' 110° 26 knots. Striking force left 1500B. (S.O. Force H. 1520B/26).

/Have.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN -Contd.

Have lost touch with enemy battleship last observed position 47° 30' N., 19° W. 1500. A/C Duty M. 1525/26)
Engaged one aircraft my P.C. and S. are 050° 18' N., 018° 45' W., 128° 26 knots. RODNEY bears 100° 11 miles from me. (C. in C H.F. 1551/26)
My 1520B. Position based on fix at 1500. (S.O. Force H. 1605B/26)
Enemy's C. and S 140° 20 knots. (A/C Duty H 1605/26)
Estimated position at 1610. 47° 28' N., 18° 57' W.U. (A/C Duty M. 1630/26)
Have regained contact. (A/C Duty M. 1600/26)
Am being attacked by type unknown.(A/C Duty M. 1632/26)
Enemy has altered course to 125; approx. (A/C Duty M. 1655/26)
My 1520B Estimated P.C. and S. 1630B 048° 12' N., 017° 34' W., 110° 25 knots my P.C. and S. at 1700B 049° 00' 017° 25' X 15 140° 26 knots. Striking force searching for enemy. (S.O. Force H. 1700B/26)
My 1605. My 1655. Course was 140 true not 125 true. (A/C Duty M. 1700/26)
Your 1545B/25. Asking for report on interference experienced. (D.S.D. 1702B/26 to PRINCE OF WALES)
Your 1702B/26. Detailed reply. (PRINCE OF WALES 2256/26) See Lion Copy.
P.C. and S. of 4th D.F. and NERISSA at 1730 048° 43' 017° 47' based on fix 1515 115° 27 knots. SIKH reported periscope 5 miles back. No enemy in sight. Visibility 8 miles. Oil fuel remaining 4th Destroyer Flotilla 50%. NERISSA 42%. (Capt. D.4. 1730/26)
My. P. C. and S. are at 1700B/26 059° 39' N., 026° 04' W., 345° 13 knots passing through 063° N., 028° W. thence to Hval Fiord. KENYA in company. (VICTORIOUS 1730B/26)

/Request.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.5.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN -Contd.

Request you P.C. and S. Shall I leave carrier and join you. If no reply shall remain with carrier. (S.O. Force H. 1740B/26 to C. in C. H.F.)
One large vessel (Battleship or battle cruiser) bearing 068° 10 miles 120° my position 156° 49° N., 18° W. 39. R.13 (SHEFFIELD 1740B/26)
My 1700B. Estimated P.C. and S. enemy battle fleet 1800B 048° 06' 017° 02' 110° 22 knots. My P.C. and S. at 1800B 048° 55' 017° 18' 140° 29 knots. Striking force scored no hits and leaves again at 1830B. Above position based on fix at 1800B. (S.O. Force H. 1800B/26)
Have lost touch with enemy battle fleet Enemy's last observed position was 47° 15' N 18° 23' W. U. (A/C Duty M. 1800/26
KING GEORGE V had to reduce to 22 knots at 1705 to economize fuel. P. and C. at 1800 049° (?48') N., 017° 33' W. 110° RODNEY bears 132° 4 miles on same course speed 22 knots.
Unless enemy speed is reduced intend KING GEORGE V return to refuel at 2400B/26. RODNEY can continue pursuit without destroyer escort. Recommend you remain with carrier. (C. in C. H.F. 1821/26 to S.O. Force H)
Approx. P.C. and S. of BISMARCK at 1500/26 48. 24' N., 18° 46' W. 110° 25 knots.
It is not my intention to order submarine to alter their patrol position for the time being. (F.O.S. 1824B/26 to S/M's Area A
Reports by SHEFFIELD and ARK ROYAL's aircraft are based on reference position 20 miles north of position in my 1520B and 1700B and 1800B which are based on fix at 1500B. (S.O. Force H. 1825B/26)
-Enemy may be able to interfere effectively with our R.D/F in an endeavour to escape when being shadowed. (A.C.N.S.H. 1841B/26)

/Weather....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN (contd)

Weather Forecast 1900Z/26 to 0700Z/27. (Duty Met. Officer 1856B/26).
WIVERN, VANSITTART and WILD SWAN are to proceed to Plymouth with all despatch. (A.C.N.S.H. 1858B/26 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
My 1740B. One large vessel bearing 105° 12 miles course 110° my position 179 49° N. 17° W. 39.R.13. (SHEFFIELD 1859B/26)
My 1800B estimated P.C. and S. of enemy at 1900B 048° 00' 016° 28' 110° 22 knots. My P.C. and S. 048° 36' 016° 54' 110° 29 knots. Striking force on their way. Above position based on fix at 1500B. (F.O. Force H. 1930B/26).
My 1740B. One Battleship bearing 115° 9 miles course 115° my position 158° 49° N. 17° W. 46. D.M. (SHEFFIELD 1937B/26).
Request aircraft may give Captain D.4 visual link with enemy. (C. in C.H.F. 2054B/26 to S.O. Force H).
Assume you are organising destroyer night attacks if this is possible. No answer required. (1st S.L. 2056B/26 to C. in C.H.F)
Your 1730B/26. My P.C. and S. are at 2100 063° 45' N. 022° 58' W. 251° 12 knots to make R/V 1100/27. (ICARUS 2110B/26 to VICTORIOUS).
My 1740B. One battleship bearing 140° distant 8 miles course 340°. My position 068° 12 miles from 48° N. 16° W. based on the reference position of the Admiral at 1300. (SHEFFIELD 2113B/26).
My P.C. and S. are at 2100B/26 060° 00' N. 026° 32° W. 345° 20 knots passing through R/V 063° N. 028° W. at 0500B/27. E.T.A. Hvalfiord 1330B/27. (VICTORIOUS 2130B/26).
Estimated P.C. and S. of enemy were at 2130B 047° 45' 015° 25' 330° 22 knots.
My. P.C. and S. 2100B 048° 17' 015° 50' 020° 20 knots. (S.O. Force H. 2140B/26).
My 1740B. One battleship bearing 130° distance 9 miles course 000°. My position 038° 12 miles from 48° N. 16° W. based on reference position of the Admiral at 1300. (SHEFFIELD 2140B/26).
After one more small torpedo bomber attack tonight all torpedoes will be expended. (S.O. Force H. 2205B/26 to C. in C.H.F).

/Report.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN (contd)

Report enemy's speed. (S.O. Force H. 2214/26 to SHEFFIELD).
My P.C. and S. are 049° 10' N. 015° 29' W 170° 21 knots. RODNEY in company. (C. in C. H.F. 2215/26).
Request you will retain separate screen of three destroyers each for VICTORIOUS and PRINCE OF WALES and sail remaining destroyers working with Home Fleet for Londonderry with despatch as they become available. (R.A.D H.F. 2215B/26 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).
Admtys. 2056B. Destroyers bore 212° 10 miles at 1900B closing enemy. (S.O. Force H. 2218B/26 to C. in C.H.F).
My 1919B/25. SEALION patrol on line 260° from position 048° 20' N. 005° 15' W. keeping as close to this position as circumstances permit. Remaining submarines addressed move patrol position 30 miles 162°. (F.O.S. 2219B/26).
Torpedo Bomber (corrup group) scored one hit amidships. (S.O. Force H. 2225B/26 to C. in C.H.F).
My P.C. and S. are (? 049° or 054°) 48'N. 016° 25' W. 130° 30 knots. Fuel remaining 30%. Can operate (? with) RODNEY or Force 'H' (C.S.1. 2230B/26).
My 2225B. Possible second hit starboard quarter. (S.O. Force H. 2240B/26).
Your 0310B/26th. WINDSOR sailed 1830. ANTELOPE ready to proceed. No other H.F. destroyers remain. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2244 /26 to R.A.D).
Lost touch at 2200B. (S.O. Force H. 2250B/26)
My 2240 1 Battleship bearing 115 7 miles course 060 my position 242 48° N. 15° W. 19. (COSSACK 2300B/26).
My 2250B. ZULU and Capt. (D) 4 now in touch. Enemy's course 060°. (S.O. Force H. 2310B/26)
My 2300. 1 Battleship bearing 070 7 miles course 340 my position 233 48°N15° W. 21. (COSSACK 2322B/26).
WAR HINDOO is to stand by to proceed to sea at short notice. Oiling outfit is to be placed on board forthwith. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail escort. (V.C.N.S. 2325B/26).
Fire star shells. (C. in C.H.F. 2337/26 to ZULU).
1 large vessel bearing 270° 2 miles course 110° My position 4745 N 1448 W. (A/C Duty O 2344/26).

/Cancel.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN (contd)

Cancel my 2205. Attack not possible tonight. Dawn attack tomorrow by 12 torpedo spotter reconnaissance aircraft. Am turning west for short distance to keep clear of you. My position is 048° 42' N. 015° 17' W. based on fix at 2000. (S.O. Force H. 2345/26 to C. in C.H.F).
My P.C. and S. 048° 46' N. 015° 20' W. 030° 21 knots. (C. in C.H.F. 2347/26 to S.O. Force H).
My 1656B/26. No fuel remaining for shadowing My P. C. and S. are 048° 32' N. 015° 22' W. 025° 13 knots. Proceeding Londonderry. (R.A. 18th C.S. 2350B/26).
My 2322 1 Battleship bearing 335° 6 miles course unknown my position 2215 48° N. 15° W. 18. (COSSACK 2400B/26).

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols

Two cross over patrols between the following points to be carried out by two Catalinas, with the object of locating and shadowing Force R.E. KRGP 5050 - PHEN 1030 No.1.
RNYE 2035 - WCTY 1000 No.2.
Aircraft to be on patrol at 0900/26/5 and to remain until prudent limit of endurance.
(H.Q.C.C. 0040 to Admty.) (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0155/26)
The following air searches have been arranged for today commencing 1000B.
Two cross-over patrols by Catalina aircraft
(a) From 50° 10' N., 21° 0' W to 52° 20' N., 19° 25' W.
(b) From 48° 10' N., 23° 30' W., [illegible] W. to 49° 50' N., 21° 10' W.
(1st S.L. 0109B/26)
A.M. 0225B/25. These patrols have been ordered to be flown today, commencing 0600.
(D.O.D. H. 0123B/26)
Six Wellingtons to proceed to St. Eval on 26/5 in sufficient time to enable the aircraft to refuel in readiness to take off on a sweep at 1200/26 if required.
(H.Q. 15 Group, 0210/26)
Sweeps by three Whitleys to be flown today in following area:-
59.20 N., 05.26 W., 58.28 N., 06.23 W., 61.48 N., 14.05 W., 60.56 N., 15.12 W.
A/C leave Eastern limit at 0500 and again at 1400. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0302/26)
Cancel my 0123/B/26. (D.O.D. H. 0318B/26)
A.M. 2012/B/24. Patrol was flown but was unproductive.
A further unit is being ordered to search today a 400 mile square area the centre of which is 26° N., 43° W. (D.O.D. H. 0340B/26)
(LV/G3/26/5. Onions if enemy doubled back from last known position 056° 40' N., 036° 18' W., at 2330/24 G.M.T. it can be in 068° 00'N., 020° 00' W., at 0800/26 G.M.T. assuming speed 25 knots. Patrol of Denmark Straits as soon as possible, covering area of probability, while maintaining search laid down in my LV/G6/25/5 (15 Group 0700/26 to 30 Wing) My 0123/26. Patrols are being flown as follows:-
(a) Patrol of Four aircraft from Iceland

/Datum line.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols (contd) Datum line 62° 38' N.
16° 50' W.
60° 30' N.
14° 15' W.
Track 240° for 300 miles.
(b) North Cape to the Ice.
(c) Parallel track.
Sweep with 2 Whitley Aircraft from Cape Wrath to 61° 20' N. 14° 50' W. (D.C.D.H. 0918B/26).
(c) Three long range Hudsons of 206 Squadron to proceed to St. Eval forthwith.
(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0938/26).
A cross-over patrol between the following points is to be carried out forthwith by one Sunderland with the object of locating and shadowing force re. JZAF 4558. NPDU 5408 Patrol to be continued until prudent limit of endurance. (H.Q.C.C. 1019/26).
Sunderland A/C carrying out two circuits of cross-over between 62° 45' N and 08° 02' W. and 64° 54' N 10° 52' W. commencing about 1230/26. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1054/26).
Two long range Hudsons to do the following sweep KRPS 4832 to KRKT 0452 on track 298 degrees for 170 miles and then from Datum line joining WCAG 1813 and KRWM 3842 on track 118 degrees for 270 miles on Datum 1500 to 1530 hours at latest. If unable to get there at this time move sweep forward 118° at 25 M.P.H. (H.Q. 15, 1154/26).
In order to intercept Hipper if making French ports following sweep to be carried by two long range Hudsons:-
From Datum Line joining KRPS 4832 and KRKT 0452 on tracks of 298 degs. for 170 miles thence from Datum Line joining WCAG 1813 and KRWM 3842 on tracks 118 degs. for 270 miles. Aircraft to be at first Datum 1500/26. If late, Patrol to be moved in direction 118° 25 miles for every hour late.
(H.Q.C.C. 1200/26).
Z/209 reported enemy force in KRGP 2216 at 1045/26 and then lost touch.
One long range Catalina to take off as soon as possible to search and shadow enemy force further instructions when airborne.
(C. in C. W.A. 1220/26).

/My 0302.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols (contd), My 0302 sortie at 1400 cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1356B/26).
(c) With object of intercepting Hipper class cruiser if making for Brest cross-over patrol through following points to be flown, by one A.S.V. aircraft. W C T E 0030 P H D U 2625. Commence patrol at 1900/26 and complete two circuits. (H.Q.C.C. 1700/26 to 19 Group).
C. With object of intercepting, reporting, and shadowing enemy naval forces thought to be making towards Brest, one Hudson is to carry out crossover patrol through following points:
KRXL 4402 KRAF 5619 PHAF 1103 PHTE 2421.
Aircraft to be on patrol by 1930/26. If patrol cannot be started by 1930 hours, it is to be moved bodily at 25 knots towards Brest. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1710/26).
Following air sweeps are being flown by 2 Hudsons long range aircraft in order to intercept HIPPER if approaching French posts to the northward of BISMARCK:-
From datum line joining KRPS 4832 and KRKT 0452 on tracks of 298 degs. for 170 miles, thence from datum line joining WCAG 1813 and KRWM 3842 on tracks 118° for 270 miles. Aircraft are to be at first datum 1500/26. If late patrol to be moved in direction 118° 25 miles for every hour late. (A.C.N.S. H. 1936B/26).
It is considered likely that enemy Naval Forces will attempt to make for a French West Coast port on 27/5. In order to intercept report and shadow, 2 Sunderlands are to carry out cross-over patrols about the following lines:-
P H T R 2430 to D P T E 2816 and D P T E 2002 to W R R A 3536. Each aircraft is to be on patrol at 0600 and is to remain to P.L.E. (H.Q. 19 Group 2250/26).
Six Whitleys to proceed to St. Eval as soon as weather conditions permit. S.A.P. bombs to be carried. (H.Q.15 Group 2315/26 to Limavady).

/Following air.....

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols-Contd.

Following air patrols arranged for tomorrow
1. Two crossover patrols commencing at dawn:
(a) From 48° 18' N., 09° 58' W, to 46° 28' N 09° 44' W.
(b) From 46° 28' N., 09° 58' W., to 44° 35' N 11° 24' W.
Duration of patrol four hours.
2. Further patrols will be arranged to the Eastward as circumstances require.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2321B/26)
Five Whitleys to stand by to proceed to St. Eval at 1 hours notice from dawn 27/5. A/C to be armed with S.A.P. bombs. If sufficient number not available for all A/C arming will be completed at St. Eval for which arrangements have been made.
(H.Q. 15 Group. 2340/26 to Limavady)
Two Sunderland aircraft will carry out a patrol in following position commence patrol at 0600 27 (i) through position 048° 24' N., 009° 30' W., and 046° 28' 009° 44' (ii) through position 046° 28' N., 009° 58' W., and 044° 35' 011° 24'.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2352/26)

M/V's attacked off Ameland.

Day 25th May. Three miles North of Ameland one of our aircraft attacked an M/V of 6,000 tons. Bursts not seen but it is considered to have received at least one direct hit. The vessel was also machine gunned and must be considered as severely damaged. The second Blenheim attacked a second 6,000 tons M/V and several direct hits were obtained and debris was thrown into the air from behind the funnel. This ship was also machine gunned and is claimed as severely damaged and possibly sunk. A further Blenheim attacked a 4,000 ton M/V from 50 ft. but the bursts were not observed although shortly afterwards thick black smoke 50 feet high was seen coming from the vessel and this must also be considered as severely damaged and possibly sunk. (H.Q.B.C. 1247/26)

/Plymouth.....

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Plymouth and Milford Haven. Protectinn Measures proposed.

Operations against BISMARCK leading to concentration of H.M. ships to S.W. of British Isles. Shortage of fuel and possibility of damage sustained in action likely to result in our ships being forced to use Plymouth and Milford Haven during period 27th - 30th May inclusive. Heavy scale air attack on Plymouth and Milford Haven and aerodromes in South-west to be expected. Request special measures to be taken for:-
(a) Protection of Plymouth and Milford Haven.
(b) Protection of operational aerodromes in South-West.
(c) Provision of fighter protection for H.M. ships moving to and from Plymouth and Milford Haven to as great a depth to seaward as practicable.
Importance of operation justifies temporary reduction of A.A. defences at other vital points including West coast ports.
(Air Ministry, 1345/26 to Fighter Command).

Balloon Flying Height.

A.322 26/5. Following received by Fighter Command from F.O.I.C. Milford Haven begins: "One Destroyer acting as U.A.Guard will be flying balloon at maximum height of 2,000 feet inside harbour entrance Milford Haven between 2300/24 May and 0600/25 May". Ends.
Although period of flying now ended request that in future all comply with the terms of Air ministry signals X173 10th March and X 904 19th May so as not to prejudice the safety of friendly aircraft.
(Air Ministry, 1900/26 to Admty).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Two Condor A/C. — Two F.W. Condors were last reported in 47° 50' N., 15° 45' W., at 1508 and 51° 20' N., 14° 40' W., at 1548. (D.D.I.C. 1620B/26.)

GEORGES GEORGETTE. — (Belgian Trawler, 70 tons). Attacked by A/C at 1800/25 about 2 miles S.E. of Berry Head. Damaged by near miss and beached at Dartmouth. No casualties. (D.S.629.)

IRENE ROBERTS. — (Belgian Trawler, 44 tons) Attacked by A/C at 1800/25 about 2 miles S.E. of Berry Head. Damaged by M.G. fire and taken to Brixham. No casualties. (D.S.629.)

Mining.

9th M/S. Flotilla. — It is anticipated that 3 more days sweeping by 9th M/S will complete work in Portland Area. Request instructions. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1125B/26.)
9th M.S.F. is to be recalled and brought to one hours notice for steam. Refuel if necessary. (D.M.S. 1715B/26.)

Liverpool. — Until further notice Port of Liverpool including Q.Z.S. 211 and 215 will be closed half an hour after sunset and opened at 0630 each day. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1149B/26.)

Operation B.S.62. — My 1343/24/5. Amend return route as follows. (TEVIOT BANK, 1350/26.)

Milford Haven. — Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by Baby LL Drifters 111° Great Castle Head Low Light 14 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1629/26.)

A/C Minelaying.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

TOORAK — Aircraft circling around dropping flares latitude 55 30 longitude 28 13. (TOORAK, 0200 G.M.T./26).

MARMION. (Bombed 9/4). — My 0110/21. Sailing of MARMION postponed further twenty four hours owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0355B/26).

DIANA. — (British, 942 tons). Attacked by A/C in 61° 35' N 11° 6' W. (DIANA, 0512/26). Intercepted De GMH DIANA still attacked by aircraft. 0542/26. (Port Patrick Radio 0546/26

Convoy C.E. Odd. — 1 A/C shadowing convoy TOTEM who bears 090° My position 51° 24' N 1° 30' E. (Convoy, 0532/26).

A/C from Bordeaux. — At least one F.W. Condor is proceeding westwards from Bordeaux. Position at 1046 - 46° 30' N 6° 50' W. (D.D.I.C. 1159B/26).

GROS PIERRE. — (British 297 tons). Attacked enemy aircraft and damaged by near miss off Sunderland. Has been beached on Potato Garth in Sunderland Harbour. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1501/26).
My 1501/26. Ship is now beached west slipway Sunderland.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 2018/26).

A/C attacked at Newhaven. — Following received from N.O.I.C. Newhaven which has been corroborated begins:- ADVENTURESS in harbour report Ord. Sea. Hill fired one pan from lewis gun at Heinkel 111 which passed over at low altitude at 1750/24/5 heading south. Smoke came from aircraft and one engine stopped. Aircraft carried on into the mist ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1619B/26).

/Two Condor.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

A/C Minelaying. — Request whole gardening effort tonight on JELLY FISH including if possible the Rade Abri. (V.C.N.S. 1725B/26 to Air Ministry).

Spurn Point. — At 0811 to-day LL Trawlers detonated a mine in 246° SPP 2.1. miles. (F.O. Humber, 1745B/26).

Enemy Intelligence.

Four Unknown Vessels. — 4 Unknown Vessels bearing 050° distance 10 miles. Course 140° Position 49° 47' N. 21° 29' W. U. (A/C Duty M. 1200/26).

PRINZ EUGEN. ADMIRAL HIPPER. — Following received from Navy Dept. From N.A. Berlin: reliably reported that PRINZ EUGEN and ADMIRAL HIPPER at Cherbourg. May 24th. (N.A. Washington, 1814/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

WOLVERINE. — WOLVERINE has urgent defects beyond capacity of ships staff. Has sufficient feed water to reach Iceland. (MANSFIELD 0215Z/26.)

Shipping and Convoys.

East Coast Convoys. — Time tables to supersede those in his 1145/24/3. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1130/26 to Admty., etc.) See Lion Copy.

Trans-Ocean Escorts. — Intend to operate escort for north route convoys as follows. (C. in C. W.A. 2241B/26 to Admty., etc.) See Lion Copy.

H.X. 125. — Congratulations on bringing the whole of Convoy H.X. 125 safely to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1708/26 to Cdre. A.S. Mackay R.N.R., Vice Admiral W.A. Wodehouse.

55 British and 10 Allied ships first part under Cdre Mackay, second under Vice-Adm., Wodehouse 22 tankers and 19 general cargoes Details (D.S. 629, 26/5.)

W.S.8 A. — Sailing of convoy W.S.8 A. may have to be postponed. WAIWERA and PORT WYNDHAM are to be sailed for Clyde there to await further orders. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1906/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

Return Routes. — My 1618/17/12 and N.C.S.I. 160. In future only ships routed independently for overseas need be given a return route to the Clyde. Ships in outward-bound convoys should be provided with return routes to Loch Ewe and Oban as laid down in A.M. 1621/5/2. and N.C.S.I. 193. (D.T.D. 1907B/26 to N.C.S.O.'s.)

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LONDON. Cancel A.T.0006/25. Proceed to join S.L.75 during daylight 28/5 whose estimated position at 1200B/26 is 22° 00' N. 21° 30' W. (route) Anticipated that U.S. ships WASP, QUINCY, LIVERMORE and KEARNY will be in (E) 25° 00' N. 27° 15' W. on 27/5, (F) 26° 40' N. 26° 15' W. on 29/5. (1st S.L., 0053B/26 to LONDON).

SCOTTISH operation. Your 1930/24 (N.T. in W.R.) Operation successful. E.T.A. 0600 zone minus 1/27. Request berth in dockyard for fitting of donkey pump. (SCOTTISH, 0130A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Italian Cable. Acting on suggestion of C.O. Cable ship MIRROR intend diverting Italian cable Malaga Las Palmas into Gibraltar then putting through at previous cut west of Spartel. Cable will be left unconnected at office here available for use if required. (F.O.C.N.A. 1046A/26 to Admty.).

SEVERN. Estimated position 1300B/26 035° 20' N. 011° 20' W. returning to Gibraltar, speed 18 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1410A/26 to N.A. Stn.)

Oerlikon Guns. Your 1954B/25. 12 equipments and 339 boxes ammunition excluding 12 boxes ammunition normal stock. (F.O.C.N.A., 2346A/26, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NELSON. — To proceed as soon as possible to Gibraltar at best speed. (1st S.L. 0036B/26 to C.in C.S.A.) My 2359N/25. NELSON E.T.A. Gibraltar 1600Z/31. (C.in C.S.A., 0445N/26, to CATHAY).

REINA DEL PACIFICO. — Most desirable to release REINA DEL FACIFICO from W.S.8A at Durban in order that she may return for urgent trooping if transfer can be carried out without undue inconvenience. (D.of S.T. 0230B/26 to P.S.T.O.Simonstown).

BERGENSFJORD. — My 0203/15/4. To be used for movement from West Africa to M.E. 161 Brigade. Arrangements. (D. of S.T. 0231B/26 to C.in C.S.A.)

NELSON. — Sailed 0600 for Gibraltar in accordance with C.in C. South Atlantic's 2359/25. (S.O.1. Sierre Leone, 1019N/26, to Admty.).

EMPIRE MIST. "Q" Report. — Following has been used. Armed Merchant Raider 4.36 S. - 27.29 W. - EMPIRE MIST, suspicious. (Freetown W/T, 1100/26). Following has been read. Please cancel my QQQQ 1100 - 1155/26 EMPIRE MIST T.O.R.1105N. (Freetown, 1420/26).

CORDILLERA. TEWKESBURY. SANTOS. — Overdue shipping Freetown, all 3 diverted to St. Vincent on 17/5 have not arrived at either port under own steam. (S.O.I Freetown, 1105N/26 to Admty.)

CAMERONIA. — F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1010B/23. CAMERONIA will have to fuel and water on passage to U.K. Should this be done at Freetown, CILICIA can escort to Freetown. If ship comes to Freetown for decision whether proceeds independently from there or in S.L. Convoy. (C. in C.S.A., 1231N/26 to Admty.)

/U/B. Report .....

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

U-B. Reports — Admiralty Message A.F. Position 6° 30' N. 11° 52' W. (C.in C.S.A. 1304N/26 to G.B.M.S. 6 A.) (See also U-Boat Campaign). On several occasions in Admiralty signal of estimated U-Boat positions numbers of U-Boats have been reported in the Freetown Area which are not justified by any facts or particular indications within my knowledge. (Details) (C.in C.S.A. 1313N/26 to Admty.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. EMPRESS OF ASIA. — 26/5. CARNARVON CASTLE left Simonstown and carrived Capetown. Transport EMPRESS OF ASIA from Convoy W.A.8A. arrived unexpectedly Table Bay for bunkers. Ship lost port anchor on arrival and is putting to sea for night. Weather very bad. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1603Z/26 to Admty.)

WINDHUK. (German) — Santos reports as follows A.2. Customs officials have received from Rio de Janeiro permission to grant German ship WINDHUK clearance if she asks for it. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1851Z/26 to R.A.S.A.D) (Santos 1801Z/26).

S.L.75. — Your 0053B/26 estimated convoy S.L.75 was in 020° 25' N. 021° 25' W. at 1200B/26 speed 6.5 based on known position 1200N/25. (C.in C.S.A., 2115N/26 to Admty.)

Reports from Ships Torpedoed. — In many cases recently no distress signal from ships torpedoed in vicinity has been received at Freetown. Propose attention of Merchant ships be called to importance of ships in this area observing D. (2) article 84. (C.in C.S.A. 2249N/26 to Admty.)

MONBALDO. (Italian) — Para reports Italian MONBALDO anchored nine miles down river and A.1 source states ship sailing 27/5. (N.C.S.O. Para. 2030Z/26 to S.O.I's) (S.O.I. Montevideo 2257Z/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)

/French ERIDAN .....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

French ERIDAN, PIERRE L.D.	Vichy ship ERIDAN passed Sunda Strait 29/4 bound for Madagascar, Daker and France. Desirable to intercept if possible as cargo reported to include 1500 tons of rubber. Vichy ship PIERRE L.D. passed Sunda Strait 25/4 destination unknown, may also be on S.A. Station now. (C.in C.S.A. 2355N/26 to S.A. Station).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

NEREUS. — Greek submarine NEREUS leaves Alexandria 1800C/26 for area 035° 30' 029° 30' - 000° - 50 - 50 routed through 033° 00' 030° 00' at 1000C/27 thence on course 360°. (Capt.S.1. 1141C/26 to C.in C. Med.)

CLYDE SEVERN Patrols. — Admty. 1432B/23. Request you arrange for CLYDE and SEVERN to carry out the following (?cruises) as soon as ready. Submarines follow each other (?at) 12 day intervals. V.A. Malta pass any late intelligence of traffic routes and co-ordinate with F.O.C.N.A. any intending U. Class movements in this srea. Assumed submarines can (?proceed) on the surface by day westwards of 005° E. (C.in C.Med., 1244C/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Malta Convoys. — D. of S.T.'s 1459B/24. Strongly urge that loading of three CLAN ships may be permitted to continue and also that CALIFORNIAN STAR may be allocated for M.W.8. as well. Need for M.W.8 and subsequent convoy(s) is imperative if Malta is to carry out function ordered in Chief of Staffs No.77 of 16/4. Need for BRECONSHIRE with more aviation spirit is very great.(V.A.Malta 1304B/26 to C.in C.Med)

URSULA Operation "Creep". — Reference operation "Creep" para 12, spend one day only off Jhoms and Zuara and adjust patrol to arrive Malta 5/6. (Cm. S.I. 1443B/26 to URSULA.)

UPHOLDER. Attacks on M/V's. — UPHOLDER reports at 0900/19 in 037° 55' 015° 38' sighted Westbound convoy 3 small merchant vessels out of range. At 1844/20 in 037° 58' 015° 40' fired 3 torpedoes at Eastbound escorted convoy, 2 tankers and one merchant vessel. Estimated one hit on 4000 ton laden tanker. At 0630/21 in 037° 14' 015° 48' sighted ~~SICILY~~ SICILIA class hospital ship Northbound. At 1229/23 in 037° 56' 015° 36' fired 3 torpedoes at Southbound convoy, 2 laden French ships considered tankers escorted by one (? Italian) sloop, one hit on 5000 ton ship observed sinking.

/At 2043/24

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

UPHOLDER. Attacks on M/V's. (contd.)

My 2043/24 in 036° 48' 015° 42' fired remaining two torpedoes at largest of three heavily escorted Southbound liners, range 1600 yards, one mark (iv) and one mark (viii) torpedoes both hit. Target considered 25,700 tons CONTE GRANDE, thought ship sank. Counter attack in these three attacks comprised 90 depth charges, no damage. (Cdr. S.1. 1620B/26 to Capt. S.1.)
CONTE GRANDE is known to have been at Santos, Brazil. UPHOLDER target may have been either AUGUSTUS, 30,418 tons. DIULIO 23,636 tons or GIULIO CESARE 21,900 tons, all of which were engaged in trooping earlier in the war. (D.S.630. 27/5.)

CANADA (French).

French Hospital ship CANADA has been given a safe conduct to Beirut providing she calls first at Haifa. Ship's approx. position was 34° N. (?26°) E. at 1200 G.M.T. Ship should be allowed to proceed unless there is any indication she is not steering for Haifa. (C.in C. Med. 1636C/26 to Med. Fleet.)

Suez Canal Mines.

Your 2001C/25, the fullest possible information is required about sweeping of Type "G" Mines. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1722B/26 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.)
Your 1901C/24 gives a clear picture of situation after raid of May 23/24 and indicates that Minewatching organisation is now reliable. With what degree of accuracy are the Lookouts able to mark mines? Your 0510C/25. Essential to reduce period of holding up traffic for intensive sweeping. A delay of three days does not appear to give an appreciable increase of security over one day provided dangerous areas can be intensively swept during the day. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1730B/26 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal) Reply: 1801C/27.

/UNIQUE .....

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

UNIQUE. Do not approach within one mile of Lampedusa Harbour. Exact position of 2 Cucumbers not known but are within 1 and 3 cables respectively of following position in cables from Eastern Light at entrance (a) 224° 1 (b) 272° 6. (Cdr.S.1. 1841B/26 to UNIQUE.)

Suez Canal Mines. Situation report. Magnetic mines exploded near channel at kilo 118 by D.W.I Wellington A/C. Mine at kilo 27 found by diver and destroyed. 6 ships passed from Bitter Lake to Suez. Intend to resume route 27/5 sweeping over dangerous area. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1913C/26 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy M/V's bombed. Following Maryland recco. today, 2 Blenheims 139 Sqdn. dropped 8 250 lb. G.P. bombs on MV. of 4,000 tons anchored 34° 50' N. 11° 26' E. MV. identified as same attacked by Blenheims reported in my 1.526 22/5. Bomb hole observed in forepart of ship and damage to funnel. Today's attack 3 direct hits but all bounced off deck and damage not observed. No opposition. Two other Blenheims of 39 Sqdn. detailed in afternoon to attack damaged MV. and DR. reported due to leave Sfax. Ships seen stationary outside harbour and did not attack. On way back 8 270 lbs. G.P. bombs on damaged and abandoned MV. 34° 59' N. 11° 19' E. Some near misses but no damage observed. No opposition. All A/C returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta, 2115/26 to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.)

/UTMOST .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

UTMOST. In view of recent enemy losses it seems probable he may take coast. You have complete liberty of action N.W. of line 60° from Kuriat. (S.O.(S) Malta, 2139B/26 to UTMOST.)

SULLBERG. (German) Arrived and will leave Valencia tonight. (ALICANTE, T.H.I. 2345/26.)

Flying Boats for Freetown. Suggest that on arrival of ten G.R. Blenheims in M.E. No.228 F/B Sqdn. should be sent to Freetown. Also that No. 230 F/B Sqdn. should be reduced to an I.E. of two plus one I.R. Sunderlands, all remaining aircraft of No. 230 Sqdn. being handed over to No.228 Sqdn. (Air Min., No T.O.O./26 to A.O.C.in C. M.E.)

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

Aegean Reconnaissahce. Following received from 204 Group. R/C 1330/25 Aegean, negative ships at sea anywhere ?north of Crete to Stampalia to Melos to Cape Malea. At Melos 6 vessels 200 tons 15 caiques. One of 300 tons ashore T.O.O. 1455/25. (Ends) (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 00460/26 to V.A.(A) Med.)

Maleme Reconnaissance. H.Q. 204 Group reports 25/5 enemy concentrating on landing aircraft and gliders in field approx. one mile west of Maleme. Also on beach same neighbourhood. (?Tendency) of enemy to move enemy concentrations westward and soutthward from Maleme. T.O.O. 1750/25. (R.A. Alexandria, 0106C/26 to R.A.(A).)

Melos Reconnaissance. Following received from 204 Group, photographic analysis of Melos on 25th Adastis (? Corrupt Group) in inlet at inner bay has four 500-ton schooners, one T/S 500 ton, 12 caiques. In a harbour (two groups) at Ios (where breakwater to and beyond islet with causeway to shore exists) two schooners and 21 caiques or small barges. T.O.O. 1932/25. (R.A. Alexandria, 0701/26 to R.A.(A) Med.)

DIDO. AJAX. (Corrupt group) in position 320° Alexandria 100 miles at 0840C/27. (R.A. Alexandria, 0912/27 to DIDO, AJAX.)

Melos Reconnaissance. 204 Group reports evening R/C on 25/5 MELOS, 4 M.V's 1500 tons, 6 schooners 500 tons, 12 Caiques. T.O.O. 2050/25. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0915/26 to R.A.(A) Med.)

/Cover for GLENROY ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd.)

Cover for GLENROY.	Cover GLENROY during today 26/5. (C. in C. Med., 10120/26 to F.O.C.1 B.S.)
AJAX.	Join B.S.1 as soon as you can. (C. in C. Med., 10160/26 to AJAX.)
Enemy Shipping, Melos, Ios.	Operational Summary No.350 up to 1200/26 Reconnaissances reported no shipping at sea between Crete, Cape Malea, Melos and Astropalia. 6 Schooners, 12 Caiques at Melos. 2 Schooners, 21 Caiques or small barges at Ios. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.1058/26)
Raid on Melos Harbour.	Request you carry out following operation. (C.in C. Med., 11060/26 to F.O.C.1 B.S.) See Lion Copy.
AUCKLAND, DEFENDER, CALCUTTA. Convoy A.N.31.	My 1249/25 (N.T. in W.R.) VASCO, MARIE MAERSK, escorted by AUCKLAND, are to press on to arrive Suda Bay shortly after daylight 28th. AUCKLAND is to remain at Suda Bay under weigh during 28th and is to be sailed for Alexandria after dark via Antikithera Channel. DEFENDER is to escort ALFIOS to vicinity of Candia and return to pass Kaso about 0630/28. CALCUTTA is to provide A/A protection during daylight 27th preference being given to Suda Bay (? territory) if ALFIOS has not joined up. CALCUTTA is to R/V with DEFENDER about 0900/28 and return to -Alexandria. Fighter protection from -FORMIDABLE will be provided by V.A. Light Force (? if possible). S.B.N.O. Suda Bay to arrange Pilot Boat to meet ALFIOS off Candia. (C. in C. Med., 11220/26 to CALCUTTA, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.)

/Enemy Units .....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd.)

Enemy Units.	A/C R/C 25th reports enemy ships at following Islands (1) Melos. Off Adamas Village 6 500 ton schooners, 4 merchant ships 1500 tons, 12 caiques (2) Ios, In port Nio Sunday 2 Bly (?schooners 21) Caiques. (Capt.S.1, 1151C/26 to PERSEUS)
PERSEUS.	Retire to northward of 037° 00' N. tonight 26/27. British Light Force will be operating at Melos Knoll about 0001/27 approach from South Westwards. (C.in C. Med. 1236/26 to PERSEUS) Cancel my 1236C/26. (C.in C. Med.1724C/26 to PERSEUS)
Convoy A.N.31.	British VASCO Greek MARIT MAERSK escorted by CALCUTTA and AUCKLAND left Alexandria 0500C/26 due Suda Bay 1030C/28. Cargo military stores and ammunition. Greek ALFIOS left 1000C escorted by DEFENDER Due Heraklion 1200C/28. Cargo foodstuffs. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1253C/26 to Admty.etc.)
B.S.1 bombed FORMIDABLE hit?	One enemy aircraft bombing. FORMIDABLE hit ? Request fighter assistance. 106 degs. 33° N. 26° E. 21. (B.S.1, 1312/26 to C. in C. Med.)
Suda Bay Landing. ABDIEL.	C. in C. Med. 1801/25. Following are disembarkation arrangements. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1349C/26 to ABDIEL)
Tymbaki.	C.in C. Med. 1627/25(N.T. in W.R.) Communication with Tymbaki cut off light on beach cannot (?therefore) be arranged. Two M.L.C's are at Erempholi with instructions to look for an emergency operation any night. COVENTRY pass to GLENGYLE. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1351C/26 to GLENROY)

/DECOY .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.5.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Attack on Crete- Contd.

DECOY — C. in C. Med. 118/26. Intend to slip at 1530 passing gate at 1545 (DECOY 1402C/26 to R.A. Alexandria)

KIPLING
KELVIN
JACKAL — Intended KIPLING, KELVIN, and JACKAL shall join 7th D.F. Capt. Lord Louis Mountbatten is being sent to U.K. by air. (C. in C. Med. 1438C/26 to Admty. etc.)

B.S.1.
Aircraft. — 2 Hurricanes will arrive 1500 and one Blenheim 1600. Keep me informed of P.C. and S. (C. in C. Med., 1453C/26 to B.S.1.)
3 Hurricanes will relieve every 40 minutes till 1700 then every hour till sunset. They will approach from S.W. and fire cartridges of day on sighting. (C. in C. Med. 1511/26 to B.S.1.)
My P.C. and S. 234° 33° N., 27° E., 28 110° 16 knots at 1500. (B.S.1. 1525/26 to C. in C. Med.)

GLENROY — Following from Mid. East (Begins-) - Not impossible for enemy to land by air (Tymbaki) or near road Tymbaki - Heraklion. Therefore most important beach Tymbaki and road Heraklion should be protected. Also essential permanent W/T communication established Tymbaki to Canea and Heraklion. H.Q.16 Infantry Brigade with 2 ships of enemy due Tymbaki night night 26/27 has wireless set T.O.O. 1015/26 (ends) (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1616C/26 to GLENROY)

/Air Recco....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (Contd.)

Air Recco. — Following received (begins) 39 reconnaissance 0600 to 0800/26. Stampalia to Melos negative shipping. In Melos one tanker and one postulated destroyer with steam up. Melos-Cape Melia negative shipping. Retimo - Candia small boat in harbour A.M. Heraklion landing ground large number of small aircraft reported on main runway but confirmation of this awaited from analysis of photograph. 5 fishing boats in Spiralonga. H.M. Ships observed on return flight escorted by Beau fighters. T.O.O. 1020C/26. (ends) (R.A. Alexandria, 1631C/26 to R.A. (A) Med.)

Cruisers' A/A Ammunition. — Your 2112C/24 stating GLOUCESTER and FIJI had expended whole outfit of A.A. ammunition, have you considered landing part of main armament outfits in order to stow more A.A. ammunition ? (V.C.N.S. 1657B/26 to C. in C. Med.) Reply: 1744/28.

AJAX ABDIEL. — It is reported that heavy attack by JU.87 and Italian torpedo aircraft is intended on you late this afternoon. (C. in C. Med. 1802C/26 to ABDIEL, AJAX.)

Aegean Recco. — Request you will repeat morning and evening R/C in Aegean on 27/5. (C. in C. Med., 1816C/26 to 204 Group.)

GLENROY hit. — Very heavy air attack GLENROY hit, my position now is 195° 035° N., 025° E., 40 miles. (Capt. D. 10, 1826C/26 to F.O.1 B.S.) See later signals.

Crete. — Appreciation. Reply to Chiefs of Staff 116. (C. in C. Med. 1834C/26 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

/ALFIOS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd.)

ALFIOS. Your 1615 (N.T. in W.R.) order ALFIOS back to Alexandria. Proceed to join CALCUTTA. (C. in C. Med., 1917/26 to DEFENDER)

B.S.1
FORMIDABLE.
ABDIEL. (? It is understood) when 25 miles from Alexandria you will detach FORMIDABLE and 4 destroyers to Alexandria. Proceed northward with remainder of your force to support ABDIEL's return. It is assumed Capt. D.14 and DECOY will have joined you before detaching FORMIDABLE. (C. in C. Med., 19220/26 to B.S.1)

Parachutists. It is possible German parachutists may be dropped in neighbourhood of Tymbaki. (C. in C. Med.,19280/26 to GLENROY)

GLENROY damage. My 1826. Fires out in GLENROY. Partly flooded forward, one main derrick and some boats gone. Will be late. My position now is 290° 34°N. 25° E. 12, 16 knots. (Capt.D.10, 19500/26 to C. in C. Med. B.S.1) GLENROY reports unable to continue operation tonight. One third of landing craft out of action part may be repaired tomorrow. All army petrol burnt or overboard. Much time lost turning down wind etc. Request instructions for tomorrow. My P.C. and S. are 033° 51' N. 025° 05' E. 121, 14.5 knots. Heavy torpedo aircraft attack at dusk. (Capt. D. 10, 21010/26 to C. in C. Med.)

IMPERIAL.
KIMBERLEY.
HOTSPUR. Take KIMBERLEY and HOTSPUR under your orders. Sail after embarking troops by Kaso Strait to arrive Suda Bay at 2359/27, disembark troops, and sail again at 0230/28 for Alexandria. Passage between Kaso Strait and Suda Bay to be made at highest possible speed in both directions. Fighter protection is being requested. (C. in C. Med. 21280/26 to IMPERIAL) Cancel my 21280/26. C. in C. Med. 23540/26.)

/Air Recco ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

Air Recco. Following from H.Q. 204 Group. PHotographic reconnaissance 26/5. Melos, one destroyer 255 feet long. One M/V 230 feet, one M/V 85 feet, 6 small Coastal ships. Retimo Harbour. 22 Caiques Heraklion Harbour 36 Caiques both harbours. T.O.O. 1722/26 (Ends) (R.A. Alexandria, 2316/26 to R.A. (A) Med).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CARTHAGE. — Sailed in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1226Z/23. (N.L.O. Durban, 0836Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

EMERALD.
B.P.4 — After Convoy B.P.4 has passed up river on 30/5 sail for Colombo calling at Bombay to embark condenser tubes and Ferrules. Report E.T.A. Bombay to Cdre. R.I.N. (S.N.O. Persian G., 0921Z/26 to EMERALD.)

BOTLEA.
KING GRUFFYDD. — Have not the speed, armament or complement required for A.M.C., nor the necessary speed for patrol craft required to intercept shipping in areas such as entrances to Red Sea and Persian Gulf. Unsuited for service in Tropics. Considered they would be of more value to the war effort as Merchant ships. Recommended they be paid off and revert to Merchant Service. (C. in C.E.I., 1404Z/26 to Admty.)

China.

Indo-China.
Thailand. — Your 1932B/23 and Bangkok 330. Remarks on relation between economic warfare aspect and general political and strategic situation Our only hope of exercising any control over rubber exports of these two countries is by friendly negotiation and by offering them something in exchange they can only get with difficulty elsewhere, e.g., oil. (C. in C. China, 0510Z/26 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

REPULSE.

Ref. Admty. 1712B/25 pass to REPULSE. Suggest best anchorage (details) Oiler ROYALITE will be diverted to await REPULSE. 7 R.C.N. corvettes will provide A/S protection. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 0015Z/26, to B.S.3.)
A.M. 1712B/25. E.T.A. Conception Bay 1030Z/27. Swordfish with depth charges will assist with A/S protection. (REPULSE, 1400Z/26 to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. etc.)
REPULSE is to fuel as rapidly as possible, and is then to reinforce SUFFOLK in operation ordered in my 1015B/26. PRINCE EUGEN may be fuelling in this area. Report probable time of leaving Newfoundland. (D.O.D.(H) 1424B/26 to REPULSE)

Air Search.

One Liberator 4 engined aircraft left Newfoundland 1600Z/25 to search area S. and W. of 056° N. 036° W. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0235Z/26 to Admty. etc.)
My 0235Z/26. Aircraft reached area 56° N. 36° W. and returned Halifax, nothing sighted, visibility poor. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1212Z/26 to Admty.)

WINNIPEG. (French) intercepted.

VAN KINSBERGEN intercepted French Ship WINNIPEG in 14.52 N. 60.38 W. Ship being escorted into Trinidad. (C.in C.A.W.I. 0438Q/26 to Admty.)
WINNIPEG. Most important that every precaution be taken to prevent sabotage. Instructions for treatment of crew and passengers. Decision as to seizure or requisition of ship will be communicated later. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0941Q/26 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad)
My 0438Q/26 and my 0941/26. VAN KINSBERGEN reports 750 passengers on board including 210 German and 100 unarmed French soldiers and sailors. Request early decision as to seizure or requisition of ship and confirmation that instructions in my 0941/26 as regards passengers and crew are correct. (C. in C.A.W.I. 0942Q/26 to Admty.)

/Esquimalt Harbour ..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

Esquimalt Harbour.

The following obstructions are being laid. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1521Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

CHITRAL..
H.X. 129.

In absence of REVENGE intend sailing CHITRAL as ocean escort for H.X.129. Intend embarking about 150 Naval Personnel for passage to U.K. via Iceland. CHITRAL to proceed to Reykjavik with Iceland local escort and to return to Halifax without proceeding on patrol if this can be arranged by F.O.C.N.P. (R.A.S B.S., 1659P/26 to Admty. etc.)

Tunis Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dep. from Tunis 23/5. Port of Tripoli seriously damaged. Axis powers now using Port of Zura. Shipping proceeding there by Tunisian Territorial Waters. (N.A. Washington 1825/26 to Admty.) (N.I.D. Comment. This information has been passed to C. in C. Med. N.O.i/c Malta)

St. Lawrence Ports.

Your 1555B/26. Agree to proposal re St. Lawrence ports. It would also be helpful if other ships bound to Canadian and U.S. Atlantic Ports West of Halifax could make similar signal on crossing 65° West. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1912Z/26 to Admty.)

WARSPITE repairs.

Desired arrangements be made for WARSPITE to be taken in hand in U.S.A. for repairs as indicated in the following summary. WARSPITE should arrive shortly after MALAYA completes. Repair Yard should be reported by wire. (Controller 2347B/26 to B.A.R.M.)

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HARPAGUS. NORMAN MONARCH. JOHN P. PEDERSEN.	In Convoy H.X. 126, torpedoed 20-21/5, all now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 629, 26/5.)
RAMILLIES (torpedoed 8/5)	12 survivors landed at a Canadian port. Master and 24 of crew reported in another boat not yet accounted for. (D.S.629, 26/5)
DUNKWA. (tropedoed 6/5)	British, 4,752 tons, overdue at Freetown since 10/5. Now known sunk by S/M on 6/5.
BRITISH GRENADIER. (torpedoed 22/5)	Spanish gunboat CALVO taking 24 survivors tanker BRITISH GRENADIER torpedoed 2000/22 to Freetown. (Madrid, 1117/26 to Admty.) My 1122/25. Further 24 survivors ex BRITISH GRENADIER landed Freetown 5/5 (?) Crew all safe. (S.O.(1) Freetown 1204N/26)
GLARONA.	Norwegian tanker, 9912 tons. Following has been read S.S.S.S 6.30 N. 11.52 W. GLARONA sighted. (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 1150N/26)
MARISA (torpedoed 16/5)	My 1610/23 Further 14 survivors ex MARISA picked up by SURPRISE and arrived Freetown 26/5. (C.in C.S.A. 1200N/26 to Admty.)
WANGI WANGI.	WANGI WANGI probably torpedoed in 05° 24' N. 14° 04' W. at 1920/2. Incomplete message only received. (C. in C.S.A. 1554N/26.)
SAN FELIX. (torpedoed 20/5)	My 1911Z/23. British ship SAN FELIX arrived safely. Badly holed. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1805Z/26 to Admty.)
COLONIAL.	Following has been read. SSSS 9.16 N. 15.15 W. COLONIAL sighted Submarine 2202 G.M.T. (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 2107N/26)

/CITY OF WINCHESTER ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.5.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd.)

CITY OF WINCHESTER. (Torpedoed 9/5)

91 survivors arrived on Norwegian HERMA ex CITY OF WINCHESTER which was torpedoed 9/5 in 8 20 N. 36 14 W. S/M did not surface crew picked up 19/5. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 2346/26.)

Submarines Reported.

1843.

At 1843/26 G.M.T. a U-Boat made a sighting report in vicinity of 48° N. 17° 30' W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1140B/26)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1410B/26).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Greek Shipping.

The Greek Govt. has sent a message to all Greek vessels outside the Mediterranean, requisitioning them.

Home Commands.

BISMARCK & PRINZ EUGEN.

4th D.F. attack.

ZULU, MAORI and COSSACK attacked BISMARCK with torpedoes about 0128 to 0146. MAORI and COSSACK each claimed a hit, though the senior surviving officer of the BISMARCK states that no torpedoes fired by destroyers hit the ship. Nevertheless, the BISMARCK made good 8 miles between 0240 and 0340 and at 0353 B Capt. (D) 4 reported that she was still capable of heavy and accurate fire. At 0604B MAORI reported her course and speed 160° 7 knots.

Situation at 0600.

The enemy was altering course widely, speed 7 knots. Destroyers shadowing.

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL about30 miles to the southward.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with RODNEY working round to engage from the westward.

NORFOLK from N.W., DORSETSHIRE from S.E. and SHEFFIELD seeking to make contact and shadow.

S.O. Force H., intended to fly off a striking force to attack at 0715, but the attack was cancelled owing to the difficulty of identifying our own ships in low visibility.

At 0701 BISMARCK opened fire on 4th D.F. SIKH reported her course at 0739 as 80°, at 0744 the enemy had altered course to 240° after which she made several alterations of course.

/NORFOLK.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BISMARCK & PRINZ EUGEN. (contd).

NORFOLK made contact at about 0630 and engaged at 0758 whilst shadowing. Force H made contact at 0830 and flew off a striking force at 0922.

Enemy Aircraft Attacks.

Enemy shore based aircraft attacked our ships from 1000 onwards. There were indications that more than one enemy S/M was in the neighbourhood.

Sinking of BISMARCK.

KING GEORGE V and RODNEY engaged BISMARCK from 0848 to 1020 at ranges down to 3300. (Ammunition requirements on return to base:- KING GEORGE V 336 rounds 14 inch, 724 - 5.25 inch.
RODNEY 380 rounds 16 inch, 716 - 6 inch, 12 torpedoes, NORFOLK full outfit of torpedoes).

C. in C. H.F. had to discontinue action on account of fuel shortage at 1028B. At 1042 he informed F.O. Force H that he could not get BISMARCK to sink by gunfire. Accordingly DORSETSHIRE torpedoed the immobilised BISMARCK on both sides and sank her at 1101B in 48° 9' N 16° 7' W. BISMARCK had ceased firing, but her colours were still flying. Whilst rescuing survivors a suspicious object was sighted to leeward, which might have been a S/M. DORSETSHIRE therefore proceeded with MAORI to rejoin C. in C. H.F., over 100 survivors were rescued by DORSETSHIRE and MAORI. Our forces proceeded under air attack to bases for fuel, ships in company with KING GEORGE V:- RODNEY, DORSETSHIRE, COSSACK, ZULU, MAORI, SIKH, JUPITER, C.S.1 proceeded independently to Scapa.

/There were.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BISMARCK & PRINZ EUGEN.(contd).

There were no casualties or damage to the capital ships or cruisers. Slight damage and a few casualties in COSSACK and ZULU; one man lost overboard in SIKH.

PRINZ EUGEN.

Bomber Command sent a striking force to position 48° 8' N 8° 11' W by 1000, to meet the possibility of PRINZ EUGEN endeavouring to make the French Coast.

At 1820 an enemy cruiser, probably PRINZ EUGEN was in 47° 0' N 14° 30' W.

Orders for intercepting were sent to SEALION PANDORA, SEAWOLF, STURGEON and TIGRIS.

PRINCE OF WALES.

PRINCE OF WALES arrived at Reykjavik at 0530 today with AURORA, GALATEA and 4 destroyers.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. Contd.

Enemy T.B.'s in Channel.

KONDOR (S.O.) JAGUAR and WOLF were reported to have been seen passing Cape Cris Nez at 0815 on a south-westerly course, speed about 30 knots.

Reinforcements for Mediterranean.

GALATEA is to be sent to the Mediterranean, C.S.2 is transferring his flag to AURORA.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night except minelaying by 29 Hampdens.

Blenheims operated today against shipping off the Dutch Coast and claim to have hit a cargo boat in a convoy.

Special searches were made today for the BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN by Catalinas and Sunderlands and by long range Hudsons. Wellingtons and Blenheims maintained cross over patrols at Strategic points. Patrols were flown in Denmark Straits by aircraft from Iceland.(C) A patrol was flown at dusk from Ushant to Brest and from Brest coastwise, and the cross over patrol off Brest was maintained.

A Hudson on the search for BISMARCK bombed and hit a coasting vessel off the Bay of Biscay.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

A/P vessel EVESHAM on F.L. patrol was bombed and sunk at 2215 off Yarmouth.

PIORUN was attacked at 2000 B in 49° 47' N 11° 20' W by torpedo aircraft.

A group of merchant vessels from Plymouth/ Falmouth to Helwick L.V. escorted by CLEVELAND was attacked at 2307. Two ships are reported to have been sunk (ROYK-SUND and ?).

REGISTAN Ocean boarding vessel was bombed and abandoned on fire at 2300 in position 270° Cape Cornwall 8 miles. REGISTAN was taken in tow for Falmouth, the Captain and 5 men remaining on board.

Mining.

Operation B.8.62.

TEVIOT BANK with COTSWOLD, laid mines in the East Coast Barrage today.

38 aircraft laid mines off Bret last night and 4 off Le Havre.

Mines were detonated today off Flamouth and Milford Haven.

Certain reaches of the Medway were closed in the early hours of today. Blyth was closed at 19078.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

SEVERN was ordered at 1322B to rejoin CAIRNDALE.

Force H was ordered at 1259 to proceed to Gibraltar.

A tanker was sighted today by TRUANT. Last seen at 1445 in 40° 13' N 38° 19' W. steering 12°.

South Atlantic.

NELSON (proceeding to rejoin Convoy S.L.76) was ordered to return to Freetown at 2213N.

CILICIA and CARNARVON CASTLE are to leave Capetown on 28/5 and 29/5 respectively to patrol the Cape-North America and Cape - U.K. trade routes, as it appears that one or more raiders, supply ships or prizes are likely to have met and it is possible that an attack on these trade routes may result.

Mediterranean.

Air attack on convoy.

Following a report by a Maryland, 6 Blenheims at 1350 attacked a large convoy, escorted by 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers steering 210° in 33° 48' N 14° 44' E. One ship of 10,000 tons carrying M.T. was hit several times and was last seen down by the stern. Two Blenheims were destroyed. URSULA was ordered to try to intercept the convoy and UNION to investigate.

Enemy Libyen convoys now pass both East and West of Malta.

/Western Desert.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.5.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Western Desert.

Supplies are being sent to Tobruk by lighter owing to the scale of air attack on coastal shipping. It is reported that SCUDD and SIDONIS shot down an aircraft at Tobruk on 25/5.

2 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

Suez Canal

Movement of shipping recommenced today.

Attack on Crete.

Policy

At 0015B the Prime Minister sent a message to the Cs. in C. Med., and M.E., that victory in Crete was essential at this turning point in the war. They were to keep hurling in all aid they could.

Enemy air attacks.
BARHAM damaged.

The scale of enemy air attack at sea was again heavy today, and no fighter protection was available.
QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM and destroyers covered the retirement of ABDIEL, HERO and NIZAM after unloading troops and supplies at Suda Bay last night. At 0900 in 32° 45' N., 28° 20' E., BARHAM was hit by a bomb which put Y turret out of action.

AUCKLAND escorting SS VASCO and MARIT MAERSK with CALCUTTA, taking military stores and ammunition to Suda Bay reported being bombed at 0900.

DEFENDER escorting SS ALFIOS with foodstuffs for Heraklion reported being bombed constantly from 1305 to 1430. JANUS and HASTY were sent to join her.

FORMIDABLE and NUBIAN returned to Alexandria today.

/Reinforcements....

MOST SECRET.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

Reinforcements. ABDIEL, HERO and NIZAM successfully transported troops and stores into Suda Bay last night and brought back 700 personnel and 17 prisoners for interrogation.

Convoy A.N.31 was turned back at 0809.

Air Operations. Fighter Blenheims and 2 Hurricanes were sent to intercept troop carriers proceeding from Greece to Maleme and destroyed 3 of the escort.

Two squadrons of Blenheims sent to bomb enemy troop concentrations near Canea were unable to locate these and bombed a concentration of 100 enemy aircraft at Maleme, destroying many.

Our aircraft suffered some losses in these operations.

Enemy air losses. The estimated minimum number of aircraft casulaties inflicted by the Navy in Cretan operations between 19/5 and 27/5 is as follows:- By gun fire: 14 destroyed, 11 probably destroyed, 12 damaged. By fighters: 4 destroyed, 1probably destroyed, 3 damaged.

In addition, SKUDD 5, SINDONI and Tug C 307 each shot down one a/c at Tobruk, and APHIS 2 JU. 87's operating off the Libyan coast.

Enemy shipping. Air R/C early this morning reported no coastal shipping at sea between Suda Bay and Sitia Bay in an area 30 miles north of Crete. 5 medium size ships were outside the breakwate at Heraklion.

Enemy Reinforcements. Enemy seaplanes landed troops at Suda Bay this morning. 16 troop carriers dropped stores 6 miles S.E. of Heraklion.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

South Atlantic.

S.S. COLONIAL, dispersed from O.B.318 is reported to have been torpedoed at 0100 today about 200 miles to N.W. of Freetown.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Action to be taken if Germans occupy All France.

On learning of aggression against France following action should be taken. Details. (Head of M. 1332B/27) See Lion Copy.

GALATEA. For Mediterranean.

Your Flagship is urgently required for service in the Mediterranean. Request you will arrange to transfer your Flag to such other ship of your Squadron as you may select, informing Admty, and order GALATEA to sail for the Clyde as soon as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 2307B/27 to C.S.2).

RODNEY.

Their Lordships congratulate RODNEY on the magnificent work of her engine room department which enabled the ship to steam many hundreds of miles at very high speed although her machinery was urgently in need of refit. (V.C.N.S. 2308B/27).

Movements.

REGISTAN

Your 0306. Cancel my 0956/26 proceed in execution of previous orders. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0656/27).

RODNEY.

If fuel and your condition admits proceed to Halifax following a southern route which should be reported.
R.A. (S) will give fouteing instructions beyond 40° W.
(V.C.N.S. 1238B/27 to RODNEY.)

NORFOLK.

Your 1436/27. NORFOLK is required to provide escort for an important convoy leaving Clyde as soon as possible. Request therefore you will order her to Clyde.
(V.C.N.S. 1908B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Destruction of BISMARCK.

List of Principal Officers Engaged.

(From Admiralty Narrative issued to Press for publication 28/5/41).

C. in C. H.F.	Adm. J.C. Tovey.	KING GEORGE V
V.A.C.B.C.S.	Vice-Adm. L.E. Holland	HOOD
V.A.C. Force H.	Vice-Adm. Sir J.F. Somerville	RENOWN.
R.A. 1 C.S.	Rear-Adm. W.F. Wake-Walker	NORFOLK.

Battleships:-

KING GEORGE V	(H.F)	Capt. W.R. Patterson.
PRINCE OF WALES	"	Capt. J.C. Leach.
RODNEY	"	Capt. F.H.G. Dalrymple Hamilton
RAMILLIES (3 B.S.)		Capt. A.D. Read.

Battle Cruisers:-

HOOD	(H.F)	Capt. R. Kerr.
RENOWN.	(H)	Capt. R.R. McGrigor.

Cruisers:-

NORFOLK, 1.C.S.	Capt. A.J.L. Phillips.
SUFFOLK, 1.C.S.	Capt. R.M. Ellis.
SHEFFIELD (H)	Capt. C.A.A. Larcom.
DORSETSHIRE (South Atlantic)	Capt. B.C.S. Martin.

/Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Destruction of BISMARCK.

List of Principal Officers Engaged. (contd)

(From Admiralty Narrative issued to Press for publication 28/5/41).

Aircraft-Carriers:-

VICTORIOUS	(H.F)	Capt. H.C. Bovell.
ARK ROYAL	(H)	Capt. L.E.H. Maund.

Destroyers:-

COSSACK,	4 D.F.	Capt. P.L. Vian.
ZULU,	4 D.F.	Com. H.R. Graham.
MAORI,	4 D.F.	Com. H.T. Armstrong.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN.-

At 0300B/25. in 057° 43' N. 030° 40' W. and at 0345B/25 in 057° 26' 031° 00' during recent operation when in company C. in C.H.F lights as from boats including pyrotechnic signals were sighted. Survivors believed to be in vicinity. (REPULSE 00052/27)
Admty's 1328B (?26) and my 2130B/26. Intend to proceed Clyde with destroyer screen as soon as they join. KENYAto proceed Hval Fiord independently from R/V at 0500B/27 in 063° N. 028° W. (VICTORIOUS 0006B/27).
Enemy appears badly damaged. Intend engaging from westward at dawn. (C. in C. H.F. 0009/27 toS.O. Force H).
Request you go not less than 20 miles to Southward of enemy. I am working round to be Westward of him at dawn. (C. in C. H.F. 0022/27 to S.O. Force H).
My 1824B/25. Admiralty appreciation is that BISMARCK intends to make for Brest. (D.D.I.C. 0037B/27).
Report estimated bearing and distance of enemy from you at 2345. Force H. proceed Southwards of enemy. (C. in C.H.F. 0045/27 to S.O. Force H).
After being torpedoed German B/S BISMARCK class made two complete circles and speed reduced. (S.O. Force H 0046B/27 to C. in C H.F).
Arrived 0040 WIVERN VANSITTART WILD SWAN. (C. in C. Plymouth 0046/27).
Your 2347 gave your course as 030°. Assume you are still chasing. (1st S.L. 0050B/27 to C. in C.H.F).
My.P.C. and S. at 0100B 048° 54' 015° 19' 150° 27 knots. (C.S.1. 0108/27).
Your 0045. 165° 41 miles. (S.O. Force H. 0112B/27 to C. in C.H.F).
Still in touch position 47° 40' N. 13° 30' W. (Aldergrove 0115/27 to 15 Group)
Have delivered (?torpedo attack) (ZULU 0122/27).
Have delivered attack. Enemy making smoke. (MAORI 0138/27)
Estimate one hit. (MAORI 0140/27).
One hit confirmed. Fire on forecastle. (MAORI 0145/27).

/COSSACK.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary;

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN - Contd.

COSSACK attack completed. Claimed one hit. (Capt. D.4 0146/27).
1 Battleship bearing 235° distance 3 miles course 345°. My position 264 48° N. 15° W. 13. (COSSACK 0146/27).
Your 0009. Intend to keep to northward to flank mark for you. What frequency. (C.S.1. 0210B/27 to C. in C.H.F).

Weather Forecast

A.C.N.S.H. 0213B/27 to C. in C. H.F.
Enemy appears to be stopped. (SIKH 0234/27 to Capt. D.4).
In touch by R D/F. (SIKH 0235/27 to Capt. D4)
When all attacks are completed fire star-shells every half an hour to indicate position and report by W/T fleet wave. My P.C. and S. are 049° 09' N.015° 21' W. 220° 19 knots. (C. in C.H.F. 0236/27 to Capt. D.4).
Come in by R D/F (SIKH 0245/27 to Capt. D.4)
My 2219B/27. Enemy battleship has been seriously damaged and was in about 47° 57' N. 15° 22' W. at 0146. SEALION proceed to vicinity of 48° 13' N. 6° 26' W. until further orders. (F.O.S. 0253B/27).
WIVERN WILD SWAN and VANSITTART have fuelled and are at one hours' notice. (C. in C. Plymouth 0256/27).
C. and S. unobtainable. Position checked by gunfire. (A/C Duty O. 0300/27 to 15 R Group)
My P.C. and S. are at 0300B 046° 05' N. 015° 58' W. 020° (?25?) knots. Fuel remaining at 0800 27 46%. (DORSETSHIRE 0301B/27).
My position 047° 48' 016° 29' starshell bearing 100°. Spotting Aircraft for KING GEORGE V will take off at 0500. (S.O. Force H. 0335B/27).
About to fire starshell. My position 047° 47' N. 015° 25' W. doubtful. (SIKH 0340/27 to Capt. D.4).
My 0146 one Battleship bearing 160 distance 3 miles course 320. My position 284 48° N. 15° W. 24. (COSSACK 0340B/27).

/Reports.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN - Contd.

Reports from Catalina aircraft at 1525/26, 2344/26 and 0115/27 indicate possibility of two enemy ships being in battle area. If so estimated P.C. and S. of second ship at 0115/27 is 47° 40' N. 13° 30' W. 100° 30 knots. (A.C.N.S.H. 0349B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)
Enemy made good 8 miles 310° between 0240 and 0340 and is still capable of heavy and accurate fire. (Capt. D.4 0353B/27 to C. in C. H.F).
Am going to fire a round of H.E. this time in the approximate position. The other G.M.E. is not good enough. (Capt. D.4 0415B/27).
Any destroyer in touch with enemy send call sign on fleet wave full power for HOMING. (C. in C. H.F. 0459B/27 to 4th D.F).
My position at 0500B 048° 24' 015° 19' working circles. (C.S.1. 0502B/27).
Message 0300/27 from Aircraft Duty O appears to cancel the indication suggested in Adty. 0349B/27. (A.C.N.S. H. 0512B/27).
R D/F detects possible (? submarine) in C48° 26' (?015 degrees) 18' at 0508B. (C.S.1. 0515B/27).
One enemy unknown bearing 350° distance 5 miles course unknown. My position 110 48° N. 16° W. 24. (MAORI 0550B/27).
My 0550. Enemy course and speed 160 7 knots. (MAORI 0604B/27).
Request you will sail available destroyers from the Clyde and Londonderry for position 55° N. 15° W. (A.C.N.S. H. 0609B/27 to C. in C. W.A).
-Report D/F bearing of H.M.S., MAORI. (S.O. Force H. 0610/27 to SHEFFIELD).
My 0550. Enemy has altered course to starboard. (MAORI 0618B/27)
E.T.A. of striking force 0715. (S.O. Force H. 0620/27 to C. in C. H.F).
At (? 0621) B. MAORI (2 corrupt groups) from me 187°. My position at that time was 048° 38' 015° 37' by observation. (C.S.1. 0632B/27)

/My 0620.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN -contd.

My 0620. Attack postponed low visibility. (S.O. Force H. 0633/27).
One enemy battleship bearing 002° distance 8 miles course 330. My position 286 48° N 15° W. 32. (Capt. D.4. 0655B/27).
D/F bearing of MAORI at 0650 was 002° First class. My position at that time 047° 10'. 015° 43'. (S.O. Force H 0700/27).
Enemy has opened fire. (Capt. D.4 0701/27).
Enemy altered course to 340. (Capt. D.4 0702/27).
My 0633. Have cancelled attack owing to difficulty in identifying own ships in low visibility. (S.O. Force H. 0707/27)
Enemy C. and S. 000 12 knots my position 345. 48° N. 16° W. 26. (MAORI 0708/27).
One enemy battleship bearing 120° 10 miles C. 340 my position 48° 13' N. 16° 14' W. (ZULU 0715/27).
Weather Forecast.
(Duty Met. Officer 0717B/27).
Cruisers and above at sea on Home Station North of Lat. 43° N. and West of Long. 5° W. are to display identification marks indicated in Adty. 325 AZ/26, as from 0600 G.M.T/27. (D.S.D. 0722B/27).
Enemy course 080. (SIKH 0739/27).
Enemy is altering course to Port. (ZULU 0741/27).
Enemy has altered course to 240. (SIKH 0744/27).
One Enemy, Type unknown, bearing 145 distance 9 miles Course 320 Position 48° 9' N. 16° W. based on fix at 0600. (NORFOLK 0753B/27).
(? Engaging) one Battleship. (NORFOLK 0758B/27).
Enemy's centre bears 353° 17 miles distant position 008 47° N. 16° W. 33 fix 1800. (S.O. Force H. 0825B/27 to C. in C.H. F).
Enemy's centre bears 345° 18 NRWE 008 VCRC Fix 18. (S.O. Force H. 0830/27 to C. in C. H.F).My 0825B. Bearing and distance are from RENOWN in V/S touch with MAORI. (S.O. Force H. 0835B/27). 32
1 battleship bearing 266° distance 10 miles course 305° position PHBB 36. (Capt. D.4. 0843/27 to NORFOLK).
Proceed with all despatch towards 48° 20' N. 15° 40' W. (F.O.S. 0844B/27 to TIGRIS).

/Enemy's.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN - Contd.

Enemy's course 290° (NORFOLK 0845B/27-.
Enemy's centre bears 155°. 13 miles from Nuts King. (NORFOLK 0844B/27).
Enemy bears 037° from me. (SIKH 0852/27).
Enemy's course 340°. (C.S.1. 0855/27).
Enemy's course 240°. (NORFOLK 0856B/27).
Enemy is altering course to Starboard. (NORFOLK 0902B/27).
Enemy is altering course to Port. (NORFOLK 0907B/27).
Heavy German air attack is to be anticipated. (V.C.N.S. 0909B/27 to C. in C. H.F).
Enemy is altering course to starboard. (NORFOLK 0915B/27).
Cancel previous orders. Act in accordance with Adty. 0609B/27. Sail for 055° N. 15° W (Capt. D. Londonderry 0915B/27 to VANQUISHER, SHERWOOD).
TIGRIS is now in 47° 15' N. 8° 00' W. Would you like her to close BISMARCK. If so it would be necessary for you to send surface ship to meet her and guide her to the scene of action. (1st S.L. 0915B/27 to C. in C.H.F)
Sail COLUMBIA ST. CLAIR in company from Greenock when ready. SHERWOOD from Londonderry when ready. All to proceed to 55° N. 15° W. (C. in C.W.A. 0919B/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
Striking force leaving now. (S.O. Force H 0922B/27).
Roofs of BISMARK's turrets and gunshield are painted bright yellow. (D.D.I.C. 0929B/27).
1 Aircraft bearing 020° distance 5 miles, course 015°. My position 47° N. 16° W. 21. (S.O. Force H. 0940B/27).
Vessels suspicious markings approaching from the Southward. (NORFOLK 0940/27).
Close. (C. in C. H.F. 0945/27 to 4th D.F).
Have detached (? ARK ROYAL) and (? SHEFFIELD) Am closing towards enemy units. Request your P.C. and S. My P.C. and S. are 047° 20' 015° 53' 350° 17 knots. (S.O. Force H. 0947/27 to C. in C.H.F).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN - Contd.

Enemy are bombing in position 205°. PHBB 51. (COSSACK 1004/27).
Enemy are bombing in position 305°. PHBB 51. (NORFOLK 1004/27 to COSSACK).
Course 027° 19 kbots. (C. in C.H.F. 1011/27 to RODNEY).
Torpedo BISMARCK close range. (C.S.1. 1022B/27 to DORSETSHIRE).
PRINZ EUGEN was last seen in company with BISMARCK at 0200B/25 and may now possibly be making for Biscay Port. (F.O.S. 1024B/27 to S/M's Area A).
My 0922. Have you disposed of enemy. (S.O. Force H. 1025/27 to C. in C.H.F).
My 0922. Have you disposed of enemy? (C. in C.H.F. 1025/27 to S.O. Force H).
Have had to discontinue action for fuel. (C. in C.H.F. 1028B/27 to F.O. Force H).
Your 2317B/25. Following is a brief account of action. (PRINCE OF WALES 1029/27 to Adty) See Lion Copy.
Sail RIPLEY with despatch to Moville to fuel thence to 55° N. 15° W. (C. in C. W.A. 1040B/27 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
Your 1025. She still (? extreme range). (C. in C. H.F. 1042/27 to S.O. Force H).
My 1042. Cannot get her to sink with guns. (C. in C. H.F. 1045/27 to F.O. Force H).
Adty's 0909B. Have rejoined ARK ROYAL. (S.O. Force H. 1053/27 to C. in C. H.F).
BISMARCK sunk in 048° 09' N. 016° 07' W. My P.C. and S. 048° 23' N. 015° 58' W. 027° 17 knots. No destroyers in company. (C. in C. H.F. 1101B/27 to Adty. and S.O. Force H).
My P.C. and S. are 051° 17' N. 013° 22' W. 215° 25 knots. Your position unknown. (JUPITER 1102B/27 to C. in C.H.F).
I torpedoed BISMARCK both side before she sank. She had ceased firing but her colours were still flying. (DORSETSHIRE 1107/27 to C. in C. H.F).

/We.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN - Contd.

We cannot visualise situation from your signals. BISMARCK must be sunk at all costs, and if to do this it is necessary for KING GEORGE V to remain on the scene then she must do so even if it subsequently means towing KING GEORGE V. (1st S.L. 1137B/27 to C. in C. H.F).
My 1107. While rescuing survivors suspicious object sighted to leeward which might have been submarine. I therefore proceeded with MAORI to rejoin you. (DORSETSHIRE 1146/27 to C. in C. H.F).
VANQUISHER, SHERWOOD, ST. CLAIR, RIPLEY and COLUMBIA have been ordered to be at your disposal and are proceeding to 55° N. 15° W. 2. By proceeding at 20 knots ships can arrive in that position as follows:-

VANQUISHER and SHERWOOD	2130/27
ST. CLAIR.	0700/28
COLUMBIA and RIPLEY	1100/28

(A.C.N.S.H. 1151B/27 to C. in C. H.F).
Continuing my 1457B/26. Account of Events. (1st S.L. 1206B/27 and 2353/27 to Naval Mission, Washington) See Lion Copy.
Join C. in C. H.F. whose P. C. and S. were 48° 23' N. 15° 58' W. 027° 17 knots. at 1101B/26. (D.O.D. H. 1258B/27 to JUPITER).
Subject to other orders from C. in C. proceed to Clyde. (D.O.D. H. 1257B/27 to C.S.1).
Proceed to Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail A/S escort keeping S.O. Force H informed. (V.C.N.S. 1259B/27 to Force H.)
Subject to orders from C. in C. proceed to Scapa and thence in accordance with A.M. 1831/14. (D.O.D.H. 1301B/27 to DORSETSHIRE).
Cancel message AZ 326 time of origin 0722B/27 (D.C. 1304B/27)

/A.M. 1151.....

MOST SECRET.

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27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN - Contd.

A.M. 1151/27. Subject to other orders from C. in C. H.F. proceed with all despatch to join K.G.V. who left 48° 23' N. 15° 58' W. course 027° speed 17 knots at 1101B/27. (D.O.D.H. 1307B/27 to VANQUISHER, SHERWOOD, ST. CLAIR, COLUMBIA, RIPLEY).
BISMARCK sunk 1101B/27. (1st S.L. 1316B/27).
My 1101/B/27. My P.C. and S. at 1400B 048° 48' N. 015° 22' W. 040° 17 knots, passing through 051° 30' 011° 45', 054° 10' 010° 50' thence to Scapa via Minches if fuel permits.
(ii) RODNEY, DORSETSHIRE, COSSACK, ZULU, MAORI, SIKH, and JUPITER in company.
(iii) Intend to detach RODNEY to Clyde and DORSETSHIRE in accordance with A.M. 1831B/14 May.
(iv) C.S. 1 is proceeding independently to Scapa. (C. in C.H.F. 1436/27).
My 1436B/27. Delete JUPITER. Admiralty pass my 1436B/27 to JUPITER. (C. in C. H.F. 1536/27).
Ammunition for K.G. V. is being made available at the Clyde. (A.C.N.S. H. 1524B/27 to C. in C H.F).
MINERVE and P.31 are to be withdrawn from patrol. (F.O.S. 1614B/27).
C. in C.H.F. requests frequency used by aircraft referred to in A.M. 2012/24 0225/25, 0422/25 may be promulgated.
Admiralty please pass to C. in C. H.F. on arrival harbour. (REPULSE 1723Z/27 to Adty.)
My 1307B. Your 1436B has been passed to VANQUISHER, RIPLEY, ST. CLAIR, COLUMBIA, SHERWOOD. (D.S.O. 1735B/27 to C. in C. H.F).
Cancel my 2325B/26 (re WAR HINDOO, Oiler) (D.O.D. H. 1835B/27 to C. in C. W.A).
PRINCE OF WALES is to be sailed as soon as possible for Rosyth for repairs.
2. Destroyer escort should remain in company. (Controller 1910B/27).

/Ammunition.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary;

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN - Contd.

Ammunition requirements at Scapa for KING GEORGE V 14 inch 336 rounds 5.25 inch 660 S.A.P. 64 H.E. At Greenock for RODNEY 16 inch 380 6 inch 716 torpedoes 12 if embarking gantry is repaired. At Scapa for NORFOLK torpedoes full outfit ammunition unknown.
My 1536B. JUPITER now in company.
(C. in C. H.F. 1946/27).
Concluding stage of BISMARCK action.
Description. (C. in C. H.F. 1953/27 to Adty).
See Lion Copy.
Reported by aircraft at 2015B. My P. C. and S. at 2100B 050° 25' N. 013° 22' W. 039° 18 knots altering course to 011° at 0200B.
(C. in C.H.F. 2139/27).
You were reported by enemy aircraft at 2040B. (D.D.I.C. 2210B/27 to C. in C. H.F);
(a) Cancel my 1216B/27th to TIGRIS and Para. B. and C. of my 1303B/27.
(b) Enemy Cruiser probably PRINZ EUGEN in 047° N. 014° 30' W. at 1820 today.
(c) SEALION to patrol on line 260° from 048° 20' N. 005° 15' W. keeping as near latter position as circumstances permit. PANDORA to 047° 55' N. 006° 18' W. SEAWOLF 046° 55' N. 005° 48' W. STURGEON 046° 40' N. 005° 23' W. TIGRIS 046° 25' N. 005° 48' W.
(d) Submarine H.44 proceed as in my 1303B/27.
(F.O.S. 2223B/27).
My 1624B/27. Cancel paras. A.B.C.D. and E. Add STURGEON, SEALION, TIGRIS, SEAWOLF and PANDORA in Bay of Biscay between 46° N. and 48° 40' N. and east of 07° W.
(F.O.S. 2319B/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

It is considered that BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN may be making for a French West coast port.
2. One Wellington fitted with SE is to fly X-over Patrol through the following position:- DPTE 1321, DPDU 2343, WRRA 2355, WRRA 4417 with the object of intercepting reporting and shadowing A/C to be on patrol at 1000/27 and remain to P.L.E.
3. One Wellington fitted with SE is to fly X-over patrol through PHTE 2453, PHTE 2508, DPDU 2953, DPTE 2738 with the same object and to be on patrol at 1130/27 and remain to P.L.E.
4. These patrols are in continuation of those flown by two Sunderlands from 0600/27. (H.Q. 19 Group, 0308/27 to St.Eval)

Reference PL/G11/26.5. To intercept report and shadow enemy naval forces one Sunderland to carry out cross over patrol through following positions:- DPTE 1321, DPDU 2343, WRRA 2355, WRRA 4417. A/C to be on patrol as soon as possible and remain to P.L.E. (H.Q. 19 Group, 0325/27)

PL/G1/27/5. Patrols to be amended as follows:- Shift Northern Patrol 30 miles bodily due east Southern Patrol, 40 miles bodily due East. (H.Q. 19 Group 0450/27)

My 2352/26. Patrol one will be flown 30 miles to the Eastward, patrol two 40 miles to the Eastward. Sunderlands will be relieved by Wellingtons and Catalinas. (C. in C. Plymouth 0652/27)

(C) One long range Hudson to take off forthwith to carry out R/C of BISMARCK and activity in that area - returning with information as soon as possible. Latest position of BISMARCK is PHRC 0910 circling. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 0845/27)

/C. With object ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. (contd.)

C. With object of locating, reporting and shadowing HIPPER Class cruiser thought to be making for a French West coast port, three Hudsons of 206 are to carry out parallel track search from datum line KRCT 0000 to KRAF 3000 on track 200° T to line joining MZXL 2006 to DPDU 3020. Thence on track 290° T for 80 miles and thence on 020° T to datum line extended thence to base take off forthwith. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 0900/27 to Adty.)

Striking Forces.

Bomber Command is sending a striking force to 48° 08' N. 8° 11' W. by 1000 B/27, to meet possibility of a second enemy ship endeavouring to make French Coast. (A.C.H.S. H. 0716B/27 to C. in C. H.F.)
Three T.B. of WOLF Class passed Gris Nez at 0815 CO: 177° Speed 30 knots. It is expected that they will follow the 10 fathom line down Channel.
XYUP to five A/C of 816 Squadron, armed with bombs, are to attack as soon as possible but only if cloud cover is suitable. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 0905/27)

812 Squadron.

Admiralty 2049/6/5. Consider 812 squadron efficient to take part in striking force operations in an emergency. Further report will be made when final training of unit is completed. (Hatston 1051/27)

Thames Estuary.

Your 1152B/26. Removal of D. Flight No.2 A.A.C.U. from DETLING and stopping of non operational flying in Thames Estuary was agreed in early days of war in order not to vitiate R.D.F. cover afforded to London. Air Ministry now being asked whether conditions permit reconsideration of this decision. (D.T.S.D. 1511B/27 to -C. in C. Nore)

/Bombing Restriction

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd.)

Bombing Restrictions.

Cancel my 1309B/26. (F.O.S.1516B/27)
Cancel para. D. of my 2048/25. Following T.B.R. are now in force between 062° N. and 065° 30' N. and between 002° W. and 003° E. (F.O.S. 1531B/27 to MINERVE)
Request T.B.R. forthwith until further notice in area bounded by Coast of Scotland and lines joining following position:-
(a) Noss Head. (b) 058° 30' N. 001° 30' W. (c) 059° 30' N. 001° 30' W. (d) 059° 30' N. 003° 30' W. (e) Butt of Lewis. (f) Cape Wrath. (F.O.S. 1705B/27 to H.Q.C.C.)

St.Nazaire Area.

It appears from P.R.U. reports that at least 5 U-Boat pens have been completed at Saint Nazaire.
As this port is being developed as a U-boat base and is also being increasingly used by tankers request that targets in the Saint Nazaire area be given every consideration by Bomber Command.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1755/27 and Recd.1853/27)

C. 3 Catalinas to proceed to Mount Batten at 1st light 27/5 for R/C. Depth charges not to be carried. (H.Q.15 Group 2525/27 to Lough Erne.)

Enemy Air Activity.

H.E. STROUD.

(Trawler) Bombed, machine gunned and abandoned in 135° Stromsay 10 miles at 1830B/26. 1 Casualty died hospital. 9 survivors landed Kirkwall by Trawler LOCH ESK of Aberdeen. No proof of vessel sinking. Am investigating when visibility improves. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1315/27)
When visibility increases to 5 miles investigate position 135° Lamb Head Stromsay 10 miles for H.E. STROUD.
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1318/27 to SCALBY WYKE)
My 1315/27. H.E. STROUD towed into Kirkwall by trawler STAR OF DON and placed alongside salvage vessel BERTHA. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 2245/27)

/Thames Estuary ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd.)

Thames Estuary.	At 0355/27, low flying plane on S.W. course dropped three objects some of which exploded in area between Knob and Shivering Sand buoys. Thought objects more likely to have been bombs than mines. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1810/27)
NERISSA.	Am being shadowed by aircraft. My position 049° 47' N. 011° 37' W. (NERISSA 1845B/27)
PIORUN. attacked.	Am being attacked by enemy torpedo aircraft. Request fighter protection. My position 049° 47' N. 011° 20' W. (PIORUN 2000B/27)
ConVoy W.S.8.B. ABOSSO damaged.	At 0825B/24 in 055° 37' N. 015° 06' W. West Convoy W.S.8.B. was attacked by one F.W. Aircraft which approached from 090° and flew over centre of convoy at height of 200 feet dropping 2 bombs near ABOSSO rear ship of port wing column. Although aircraft was heavily engaged during approach, attack was well pressed home, but since no other bombs were seen to fall it is thought possible the aircraft may have been damaged. Aircraft retired ahead of convoy. ABOSSO dropped astern with minor engine room damage but rejoined convoy by noon. (CAIRO 2000B/27)
Convoy WHEEL. REGISTAN (Ocean boarding vessel) attacked.	Enemy bombing escorted group of M/V's Plymouth Falmouth to Helwick Light Vessel Position (unconvertible) (CLEVELAND 2307/27 Proceed to assistance of REGISTAN bombed in position 270° Cape Cornwall 8 miles at 2300. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2310/27 to WIVERN) Fighters are being despatched to assist convoy WHEEL. (Plymouth W/T 2322/27) My 2307. 8 bombed. 2 ships sunk. (CLEVELAND 2334/27 to C.in C. Plymouth)

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

B.S.62	Departure TEVIOT BANK and COTSWOLD in company at 0515 for B.S.62. (F.O. Number 0531B/27) Operation B.S.62 completed. (TEVIOT BANK 1730B/27)
Falmouth.	At 1025/27 S.A. Trawler detonated acoustic mine. Details. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1239/27)
Liverpool.	At 1813/26 two Mines detonated simultaneous. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 16142/27)
Milford Haven.	Red Mine detonated by single L. Trawler 126° St. Ann's Head Light nine cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1831/27) At 1548/27 one Red Mine detonated by Sweeper in 150° St. Ann's Head Light Eight cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1832/27)
Minelaying Programme.	A.L. M. 07680/21 of 20/5/41 Proposals. (A.C.O.S. 1843B/27 to Adty.)
Blyth.	Port of Blyth closed due to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1907B/27)
Nore.	515 Q.Z.H. Nore Area, cancel 475 Q.Z.H. Normal conditions. (Hydrographer 2013B/27)

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARNHORST.	Further examination of photograph of Brest taken on 25/5 shows SCHARNHORST has moved along the wall one length eastwards. (D.D.I.C. 0001B/27)
Three Enemy Destroyers.	Three German destroyers are based on Bay ports. 2 were at La Pallice on 21/5, 1 at Lorient on 20/5. (D.D.I.C. 0119B/27)
KONDOR (S.O.) JAGUAR. WOLF.	My 0754B. Three torpedo boats seen passing Gris Nez at 0815 course S.W. Speed about 30 knots. (V.A. Dover 0837B/27) (F.O.S. 1029B/27)
2 small craft.	2 small craft in 46° 28' N. 9° 28' W. (A/C Duty K. 1343/27 to 19 H.Q.)
Cherbourg.	Air R/C of Cherbourg at about 1520B/27 shows no major naval units present. (P.R.U. Recd. 1745/27)
Brest.	Visual R/C of Brest at 1900B/27 shows SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU present in same position. (D.D.I.C. 2305B/27)

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ERIDGE.	Have lost touch with ERIDGE who reported that steering gear broke down in 053° 52' N., 012° 22' W. (CAIRO 0130B/27.) Arrived ERIDGE with steering gear defective. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1951B/27.)
THYRA sunk. LEAMINGTON. damaged.	In collision with THYRA at 0043B/27. THYRA sank. Have twenty survivors on board. My stem damaged and forepeak flooded. Rejoining Convoy. Latitude 52/25 Longitude 19/22. (LEAMINGTON 0415B/27.)
INTREPID.	Delayed by evaporator defect. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1036/27.)
IXION's Lifeboat.	At 69° 20' N., 18° 20' W., vessel picked up large life boat capable of holding 36 persons from British ship IXION boat was intact but no sign of life. (Petsamo 1942/27.)
FANDANGO.	Proceeding Belfast with steering defect. (FANDANGO 2000/27.)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.73.	23 British, 10 Allied, 2 neutral ships have arrived. Commodore Vice-Adm.,Curtis, Vice-Commodore, Rear-Adm., Candy. Cargoes. (D.S. 630,27/5.)
H.X.125.	On time at R.V. with all 67 ships. Fair weather. (D.T.D. 1700B/27 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LATONA	Cancel my 1553B/25. Return to Gibraltar. at 20 knots weather permitting. (1st S.L. 01343/27 to LATONA).
GERMANIA German Tanker.	Left here 0300/27 fully loaded. (Consul, Las Palmas, 0815/27, 0915/27 to Admty). GERMANIA loaded with Petrol arrived here from Las Palmas 27/5. (Teneriffe, 0910/27 to Admty amended 1602/27).
TODARO GERMANIA.	Departure Teneriffe 0200/27 Italian Tanker TODARO, departure Las Palmas 0300/27 German Tanker GERMANIA. (F.O.C.N.A. 1410B/27 to N.A. Stn.) (S.O.(I) Gib. 1611A/27 to Admty). My 1410B/27. Times quoted were G.M.T. GERMANIA arrived Teneriffe 0900/27. (F.O.C.N.A., 1852A/27 to N.A. Stn). GERMANIA left Las Palmas at 0300 G.M.T.27. (D.D.I.C. 1701B/27 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A. etc). N.I.D. Comment:- Cargo consists of 13,000 tons gasoline.
SEVERN	Cancel A.T. 1220/26. Rejoin CAIRNDALE. (V.C.N.S., 1322B/27 to SEVERN).
CANARIAS & BISMARCK survivors.	Spanish Minister of Marine states Germans informed them BISMARCK sunk 48° N 15° W 400 miles from Ferrol. In view of possibility saving survivors, cruiser CANARIAS and two destroyers left Ferrol 1400. (N.A. Madrid, 1631/27 to Admty). My 1631/27. Minister of Marine states destroyers returning to harbour on account of weather. CANARIAS proceeding reduced speed. (N.A. Madrid, 1941/27 to D.N.I.)
FAULKNOR FORESTER, FURY, WISHART.	Will be sailed to pass through 036° 00' N 011° 20' W steering 320° at 0700/29. Destroyers are routed through 036° 00' 010° 00'. (F.O.C.N.A., 1640B/27 to S.O. Force H).

/TRUANT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

TRUANT, suspicious tanker.	Have lost touch with suspicious Tanker last seen in 040° 13' N 038° 19' W course 012° at 1245Z. My course 012° (TRUANT, 1657Z/27 to Admty). (Suspicious) Tanker last seen by TRUANT in 40° 13' N 38° 19' W at 1445/27 steering 12°. (F.O.C.N.A., 2322B/27 to N.A. Stn). Your 1657Z/27. Continue search so long as fuel permits, consistent with your safe arrival at destination. No friendly tanker likely to be in vicinity. (D.O.D. (F) 2345B/27 to TRUANT). My 1657Z/27. Have abandoned search. Am returning to original route. (TRUANT, 2346Z/27 to Admty).
Air and S/M Patrols.	A.T. 1514/27. Cancel my 1228/26. (D.O. D. (F) 1721B/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)
SEVERN.	Left Gibraltar 1700A/27 routed through 036° 00' 009° 00' and 042° 25' 032° 00' 15 knots 45 R.V. with oiler CAIRNDALE during daylight 31/5. (F.O.C.N.A., 1810A/27 to N.A. Stn. 1843A/27 to CAIRNDALE).
CLYDE SEVERN.	Your 1244C/26 CLYDE sails 2100/28 (route and approx. programme). It is not anticipated that SEVERN will be available on 10th as she is now employed in Atlantic. (F.O.C.N.A., 1824B/27 to C. in C. Med).
Operation "Splice".	Your 2140/21 and 0338/24. Concur in principle Remarks. (D.N.A.D. 1926B/27 to F.O. Force H).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

T.C.11. Simonstown's 1156/23 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1833/22, following action is required in regard to ships proceeding to Canada to form T.C.11.
(D.S.T., 0812B/27 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown etc).

Suspicious Ship. DEGMJ (BODMIN) N.R. position 36° 56' S 20° 52' E, suspicious craft no navigation lights SEMST OB stopped LEFROM USTOR OR 0202 G.M.T. (Part of signal missed owing to interference). (Scapa, W/T No T.O.O./27).

?CITY OF WINCHESTER. My 1824/10. (N.T. in W.D.) Remaining 16 survivors landed Bankwe French Guinea on 10/5. Survivors taken to Conakry and kept in a Prison Camp. Chief Engineer with 3 others released and arrived Freetown. 24/5.

JAPAN Chief Engineer reports that in Prison Camp were crew of S.S. JAPAN and following passengers: (C. in C. S.A. 0947N/27 to Admty).

W.S.8 A. Durban arrivels H.T. STRATHAIRD and HAWKINS escorting convoy W.S.8 A. less EMPRESS OF ASIA.
(N.L.O. Durban, 10162/27 to Admty etc).

Enemy Units. D/F bearings at about 1700/26 indicate surface unit within 200 miles of position 0300 S meridian of Greenwich reliability 70%. Probably 2 units but bearings suggest any number up to 4. (C. in C. S.A. 1125N/27, 1128N/27 1129N/27 to S.A. Sqdn.)

NELSON S.L.76. Cancel A.T. 0036/26. NELSON is to join S.L. 76 and escort to U.K.
(V.C.N.S. 1357 B/27 to NELSON).
Your 1357B/27. Convoy S.L.76 leaves Freetown 30/5. Is it intended that NELSON should return Freetown and escort from there, or is S.L. 75 intended. Your 1430/23.
(C. in C. S.A. 1709N/27 to Admty).

Your 1709N/27.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NELSON
S.L. 76.
(contd).

Your 1709N/27.
S.L. 76 intended. It is at your discretion whether NELSON returns to Freetown or meets convoy at sea. She is required in U.K. on completion.
(V.C.N.S. 2327B/27 to C. in C. S.A.)
My 1709N/27 and Admty 2327B/27. Return to Freetown, keeping destroyer with you.
(C. in C. S.A., 2213N/27 to NELSON, HIGHLANDER)

TEBRO
(Italian.)

Went alongside this morning to load 50,000 bales of Cotton.
(N.C.S.O. Santos, 1400Z/27 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).

CAMERONIA,
CILICIA.

Your 1231N/26. Approved for CILICIA to escort CAMERONIA to Freetown. Further signal will be made as to CAMERONIA's passage from Freetown to U.K.
(D.O.D. (F) 1418B/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

Raiders,
plans to
intercept.

My 1125/27 and my 1231N/26. It appears that one or more raiders' supply ships or prizes are likely to have met to discuss action or exchange prisoners. Difficult to forecast subsequent movements but if to north or west will be difficult to interfere. Possible an attack on Cape-North-America or Cape-U.K. Trade route may result to east or N.E. and desirable to have forces in neighbourhood early as possible. With this object following movements are ordered. Possible unit may be proceeding to South Indian Ocean. CILICIA and CARNARVON CASTLE are to leave Capetown on 28 and 29/5 respectively. Ky at 1000Z/30 in 30° S 10° E. then patrol in K.l.D, K.l.C, K.l.A, pending further instructions.
(C. in C. S.A., 1425N/27 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).
My 1425/27. Suggestion that unit may proceed South Indian Ocean a possible alternative only and should have been at the end of signal. PRETORIA CASTLE may be used to escort CAMERONIA after taking French ships to Durban My 1231/26 refers.
(C. in C. S.A. 1619N/27 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/TEBRO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

TEBRO
(Italian.)

Santos reports went alongside today toload 50,000 bales of cotton.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1449Z/27 to S.A.D.)

LATONA

Your 1310N/27. E.T.A. Freetown, 1000/30.
(LATONA, 1527Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

CILICIA.
W.S.8 A.

Your 1253/26. Request permission to utilise CILICIA (A) To escort EMPRESS OF ASIA and THYSVILLE to Durban probably leaving Cape Town 31/5. (b) To leave ships off Durban and meet CAMERONIA off East London escorting her to Cape Town where both ships will fuel and proceed to Freetown. Departure of revised convoy W.S.8A from Durban accompanied by as many ships of Group (B) (with Union Troops) as can be got ready will now have to be delayed to await arrival of EMPRESS OF ASIA and THYSVILLE.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1834B/27 to C. in C. SA)

NEWCASTLE
CUMBERLAND.

Flag of R.A.S.A.D. transferred to NEWCASTLE 27/5. CUMBERLAND sails for Freetown 2300Z/27 speed of advance 18 knots. Intend NEWCASTLE and CUMBERLAND to remain in company until 29/5.
(R.A.S.A.D., 2031Z/27 to Admty, C. in C. S.A).

NORDERNEY
German.

Moved alongside to-day.
(S.O.(I) 2032Z/27 to S.A.D.)

GERMANIA
TODARO.

German tanker GERMANIA left Las Palmas at 0300 G.M.T./27. Italian tanker TODARO left Teneriffe 0200G.M.T./27.
(C. in C. S.A., 2219N/27, 2315N/27 to S.A. Squdn).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.5.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

Air Search for Enemy Convoy.

Cdr. (S) 1 S.F. 1620B/26.
Special Blenheim Sqdn proceeded dawn/25 to search area in which remainder of convoy would have been if they had proceeded towards Tripoli. Nothing sighted. Further search eastward by Maryland, sighted 3 cruisers proceeding toward Messina without a convoy. Augusta and Catania harbours empty. Messina was not reconnoitred. In Tripoli on same day less shipping in harbour than observed on any R/C in last 3 months. Consider therefore remainder of convoy turned back. Maryland aircraft now being primarily emplyed on R/C to westward to find target for Blenheims, but daily R/C of area to S.E. of Messina will also be arranged if possible. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1105B/27 to C. in C. Med).

TORBAY.

Alexandria Submarine Sanctuary will be in force 0930 to 1230/28 for TORBAY leaving. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1145C/27 to Med.Fleet).

Enemy Convoy.

At 1107B in 034° 30' 015° 50' convoy of 8 merchant ships escorted by 2 cruisers 6 destroyers course 205° speed 13 knts. Merchant ships in line ahead. URSULA endeavour to intercept at B, and RORQUAL at ?T. (Cdr. S.1. 1227B /27 to URSULA and RORQUAL).

CALIFORNIA STAR.

Your 1611/24 Proposed use of CALIFORNIA STAR not concurred in. See also My 1459/24. (D. of S.T. 1414B/27 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Aircraft for Malta and M.E.

Second operation is expected to take place about 2/6. There will be approx 25 Mark II Hurricanes for Malta and 19 Mark I's tropicalised for M.E. Arrangements. (Air Min., 1610/27 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., Malta, 200 Group).

UNDAUNTED

Your 1058C/20 (paying off UNDAUNTED) approved. (Head of M. 1625/27 to C. in C. Med).

/Air Attack on.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General (contd).

(1. 338. 27/5.)

Air Attack on Enemy Convoy.

Following Maryland report of large convoy reported in My 1.337 27/5, 5 Blenheims 82 Squdn. and 1 Blenheim 139 Squdn. detailed to attack. 1350 hours convoy contacted in position 33° 48" N. 14° 44 E. course 210° 10 knots. 2 M.V.s 8 - 10 thousand tons attacked by 3 A/C each. Leader of first formation hit M.V. with 2 bombs resulting in volumes -of smoke, and ship last seen down by stern. Second A/C seen to blow up in Mid air before attack. Cause unknown. At same time third A/C which was only 1 span away had tail blown off possibly caused by fragment from second A/C. Both A/C and crew went straight into sea. Other formation of 3 A/C. 2 A/C scored 5 direct hits caused clouds of smoke and steam. Third A/C failed to put distributor plug in and no bombs released. 1 A/C machine gunned decks while attacking. (H.Q. Malta, 1800/27) See also, 1915/28-.

Suez Canal Mines.

Your 1730B/26.
Egyptian army look outs mark mines usually within 30 yards except in Bitter Lake Channel where observation craft are still too far apart. Negative report gives confidence. Object of 3 days delay is to sift thoroughly all observers' evidence and to search for inoperative mines with trawl and divers. This has been fairly successful, Whilst appreciating importance of reducing delay to traffic., less risk can be accepted in canal than in approaches to port and destruction of some inoperative mines important additional safeguard. It also reduces area over which ship must be unescorted which is very important consideration as I have only 3 LL sweepers for whole canal and approaches. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1801C/27 to Admty).

Air Reconn., Sicily.

Your 1407C/27 H.Q. Med., will carry out R/C of East Sicilian Ports including Messina daily until we are informed this can be discontinued.1810Z/27 to C. in C. Med). (H.Q. Malta,

/PANAMANIAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

PANAMANIAN, suspected sabotage.	C. in C. E. I., 0524/24. Presume all Naval Authorities informed and precautions taken against this ship being used to block Canal. (D.O.D.F 1819B/27 to C.O.I.S. Alexandria.-).
Suez Canal.	Situation report. Following movements of merchant vessels carried out today. Port Said to Suez 7, Port Said to Bitter Lakes 5 Timsah to Port Said5, Bitter Lakes to Timsah 5, Suez to Bitter Lakes 6. No mines discovered of exploded. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1923C/27).
Enemy Convoy. URSULA.	Anticipate convoy arriving position A 2330. At 1550B/27 p.c. and s. of enemy 033° 48' 014° 44' 210° 10, escorted by 6 destroyers. Cruiser had returned northward. If impossible to intercept at A, try B. Expect escorting force from Tripoli. (Cdr. S.1. 1930B/27 to URSULA).
Enemy Units.	2 cruisers returning to northwards in estimated position 034° 20' N 016° 00' E at 1100B. 6 destroyers escorting convoy which was successfully attacked by Blenheim in 033° 48' N 014° 44' E at 1550B. Course 210° 10 knots. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1933B/27 to Med. Fleet).
Enemy M.V.'s	Proceed to investigate two merchant ships successfully attacked by aircraft 1550B/27 Position 033° 48' 014° 44'. Two escorting cruisers retiring northwards may return to salvage. Possibility of R.A.F. survivors from ?two Blenheims. On completion return to area. (Cdr. S.I. 2145B/27 to UNION).

/UPRIGHT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

UPRIGHT. On completion of special operation retire S.E. making brief report. Area M severely compromised by UPHOLDER'S successful attacks off Del Armi and position 036° 45' 015° 42'. Approach area M on latitude 037° 40' -until reaching longitude 015° 40' thence steer (?S) to operate in area P 035° 50' 015° 20' - 000° 40 - 50. Tripoli convoy passing through this area.
(Cdr. S.1. 2232B/27 to UPRIGHT.)

Greek Cypher and Code. C. in C. Med., 23530/27. See Mediterranean Volume.

Malta Stocks. Your 1304/26. paras 3 and 4 not understood since according to Governor's return for week ending 10/5 there was 24 and 27 weeks stock of benzine and kerosene respectively while existing stocks of 100 octane "should last about 16 weeks". Has consumption increased substantially or much more been destroyed by enemy action?
(D. of S.T. 2339B/27 to V.A. Malta).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

Situation Report. FORMIDABLE NUBIAN. GLENROY.

No. 3? More heavy air attacks on ships at sea. FORMIDABLE hit. Starboard side forward torn open to waterline. Details on return to harbour early 27th. Position of attack 32° 55'N26° 25' E., NUBIAN in company with Battlefleet also hit, reported stern blown off but able to make 15 knots. E.T.A. Alexandria 2330. GLENROY hit in 34° 22' N., 24° 40' E. Returning to Alexandria. One third landing craft out of action and all army petrol destroyed.

AJAX ABDIEL A.N.31.

2. Reports not yet received of AJAX sweep N. of Crete or of bombing of Scarpanto night ? 25/26. ABDIEL and destroyers continuing to Suda tonight 26/7 and convoy AN 31 has sailed two ships only. Attack on Melos by destroyers tonight 26/27 has been cancelled owing to damage to NUBIAN and necessity of escorting her to Alexandria.

GRIMSBY sunk.

3. Western Desert. Unexpectedly heavy scale of air attack on shipping along coast has interfered temporarily with combined operation against Derna by APHIS and SS Troops. Hoped to carry out a modified form of latter tonight 26/27. GRIMSBY was sunk in 32° 15' N., 24° 35 E., at 1600/25, but still no details. (C. in C. Med., 0003C/27 to Admty.)

Message from P.M.

Following from Prime Minister to C. in C. Med., and M.E. Victory in Crete essential at this turning point in the war. Keep hurling in all aid you can.
(1st. S.L., 0015B/27 to C. in C. Med.)

GLENROY D.10.

Your 2101/26. Return to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 0017C/27, to Capt.D.10.)

/A.N.31.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Attack on Crete.

A.N.31. Turn back convoy A.N.31, (C. in C. Med., 0809/27, to CALCUTTA.)

Enemy Air Attack CALCUTTA. O.E.A.B. my p.c. and s., 218° 34° N., 27°E., 21, 330° 20 knots, convoy not yet located. Report position if sighted by enemy aircraft. (CALCUTTA, 0832/27, to AUCKLAND.)

Enemy air attack, AUCKLAND. (? Enemy aircraft bombing) BIRT WPBJ 31. AUCKLAND, 0900/27, to CALCUTTA, C. in C. Med.)

Attack on Scarpanto FORMIDABLE & NUBIAN damaged. Result of attack on Scarpanto by F.A.A. At least one enemy aircraft set on fire by Albacore bombing and considerable number shot up on ground by Fulmars. Damage to FORMIDABLE from two bomb hits considerable. NUBIAN's stern blown off by bomb (?no) steering gear but capable of 25 knots. (C. in C. Med., 1031C/27, to Admty.)

Crete. R/C's reported six MVS 200 feet Heraklion. One destroyer or MV 230 feet one MV 85 feet at Melos Island. Six small Coastal ships Retimo. Numerous Caiques Retimo and Heraklion. Enemy aircraft reported landing at and taking off from Malema. During day enemy forced our troops from their position West of Canea. All R.A.F. personnel except small signals staff being despatched Sphakia for evacuation. Party comprises approximately 19 officers 180 Airmen.

Suez Canal. 26/5 One Sweep by two DWI Wellingtons exploded one mine in Bitter Lake Area Suez Canal. Hurricanes provided fighter protection for damaged FORMIDABLE 85 miles off shore. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1036/27.)

/C.S.7.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.5.41.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Attack on Crete.

C.S.7. Keep going. Fulmars are on their way. Other fighters searching for you. (C. in C. Med., 1034C/27, to C.S.7.)

F.O.2. to return. Return to Alexandria to arrive in harbour by 2200/27. (C. in C. Med., 1057C/27, to F.O.2 I.C., Med.)

DEFENDER bombed. Am being bombed, My p.c. and s. 113° 33° N., 27° E., 15 miles 110° 15 knots, no ship in company. (DEFENDER, 1305/27, to C. in C.Med.
Following received Addressed Alexandria W/T From DEFENDER. E.A.B. my p.c. and s.,126° 33° N., 27° E., 35' 180° 20 knots.
(Nore W/T, T.O.R. 1341/27.)
Report situation and p.c. and s.,
(B.S.I., 1421/27 to DEFENDER.)
Your 1421. Am being shadowed and constantly bombed my p.c. and s., are 126° 33° N., 27° E., 35' 180° 20 knots.
(DEFENDER, 1430/25, to V.A.I.)
JANUS and HASTY detached to join DEFENDER.
DEFENDER report p.c. and s., 1600.
(Malta, 1446/27,to C. in C. Med.,DEFENDER F.O.I. B.S.)
V.A.1's 1446/. Am leading BIRDES South propose altered course 128° 25 knots at 1500. Request instructions. 1600 position 344° 32° N., 28° E.1(DEFENDER, 1449C/27 to C. in C. Med.)

A.N.31. Convoy A.N.31 returns to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1731C/27.)

BARHAM hit. At 0900 in 032° 45' N., 028° 20' E.,BARHAM hit by bomb on Y turret which is out of action. Fire reported under control.
2 bulges flooded by near miss.
(C. in C. Med., 1901c/27, to Admty.)

/KIPLING.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Attack on Crete.

KIPLING. Port Said arrival KIPLING.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 19250/27.)

Situation Report 38. Scale of air attack at sea again heavy with no fighter protection available. BARHAM hit as in my 19010/27 now returned to harbour. FORMIDABLE's aircraft shot down six aircraft on 26th and attacked Scarpanto aerodrome as in my 1031/27.

(2) AJAX, DIDO had no luck during sweep North of Crete night 25/26 and were unable to bombard Maleme aerodrome due to bad weather. ABDIEL, HERO, NIZAM successfully transported troops and stores into Suda Bay night 26/27 and have returned with 700 personnel of which 17 are prisoners of war for interrogation. Convoy A.N.31 have been turned back to Alexandria and GLENROY and neither (?) have arrived. Damage to GLENROY not serious and ship still fit for service.
(iii) Western Desert. Supplies being sent to Tobruk by a (? "A") lighter owing to scale of air attack on coastal shipping. SCUDD 3 and SINDONIS shot down one aircraft Tobruk on 25th. Enemy appears to be increasing pressure on land particularly in Gulf of Sollum area.
(iv) Canal Area. Movement of shipping has recommenced.
(C. in C. Med., 23250/27 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LEANDER. Will arrive Aden A.M./29.
(C. in C. E.I., 0812Z/27, to S.N.O.Red Sea.)

Air Search. Catalina Flying Boat FVY flew from Ceylon to Diego Garcia 23/5 from Diego Garcia to Port Victoria, Seychelles, 25/5. Complete search of Saya de Malha Bank was carried out en route. Nothing sighted. Catalina will probably stay in Seychelles area about 14 days.
(C. in C. E.I., 1354Z/27, to Admty.)

RAMB IV. RAMB (IV) was found to have embarked 9 Italian Merchant Seamen over and above original crew. This was contrary to my written instruction and was apparently carried out with connivance of Senior Italian M.O. of Hospital. The above were removed from her before sailing. Consider this attempt to remove able-bodied Italians out of British jurisdiction an abuse of her status. Military are being asked to enquire into conduct of Italian M.O. concerned. (N.O.I/C Massawa 1701Z/27. to C. in C. E.I.)
Position regarding crew RAMB 4 is not understood. Request instructions regarding crew which are presumed to be Italian.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1931C/27, to C. in C.E.I.)

DUCHESS OF YORK. C. in C. E.I., 1036Z/26. Confirm my 1958/14 does not apply to DUCHESS OF YORK if escorted. Request C. in C. E.I., inform Admiralty and other addresses of E.T.A. at Durban.
(D.O.D. (F) 1928B/27. to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A.)

/Greek.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Greek Shipping.

Message has been sent from Greek Govt., to all Greek vessels outside the Mediterranean requisitioning them and ordering Masters immediately (or, if at sea, on arrival at next port) to cable Greek Shipping Committee London. In the case of vessels at Aden, as there is no Greek Consul, endorsement of Masters' entry in log must await vessels' arrival at next port, but you should see that masters take other steps indicated. (D. of S.T. 2228B/27 to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

GOUVERNEUR GENERAL PASQUIER. (French).

Extract from a Fairmiss telegram from Singapore. T.O.O. 0427z/27. Departure 26/5 for Saigon. (M. of W.T., No. T.O.O./28.)

America & West Indies.

Docking KING GEORGE V class.

Admty., 1256B/25, docking not now required. Special blocks for KING GEORGE V Class should be prepared in readiness for fitting in a suitable dock so that a quick docking of this class of vessel could be arranged if necessary. (Controller, 0122B/27 to B.A.R.M.)

Air Searches.

Your 1015 26. Following air searches ordered tomorrow 27/5 from Newfoundland. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 02332/27 to Admty.)

A/C carrier report 21/5.

My 1721Q/21. Report of aircraft carrier off Castries not considered correct. Probably du to presence of U.S. cruisers catapulting aircraft. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1033Q/27th, to Admty., N.A. Washington.)

/WINNIPEG.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Greek Shipping. — Message has been sent from Greek Govt., to all Greek vessels outside the Mediterranean requisitioning them and ordering Masters immediately (or, if at sea, on arrival at next port) to cable Greek Shipping Committee London. In the case of vessels at Aden, as there is no Greek Consul, endorsement of Masters' entry in log must await vessels' arrival at next port, but you should see that masters take other steps indicated. (D. of S.T. 2228B/27 to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

GOUVERNEUR GENERAL PASQUIER. (French). — Extract from a Fairmiss telegram from Singapore. T.O.O. 0427z/27. Departure 26/5 for Saigon. (M. of W.T., No. T.O.O./28.)

America & West Indies.

Docking KING GEORGE V class. — Admty., 1256B/25, docking not now required. Special blocks for KING GEORGE V Class should be prepared in readiness for fitting in a suitable dock so that a quick docking of this class of vessel could be arranged if necessary. (Controller, 0122B/27 to B.A.R.M.)

Air Searches. — Your 1015 26. Following air searches ordered tomorrow 27/5 from Newfoundland. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0233Z/27 to Admty.)

A/C carrier report 21/5. — My 1721Q/21. Report of aircraft carrier off Castries not considered correct. Probably du to presence of U.S. cruisers catapulting aircraft. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1033Q/27th, to Admty., N.A. Washington.)

/WINNIPEG.....

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

WINNIPEG (French) intercepted 26/5.

Your 0942Q/26. Decision whether WINNIPEG will be seized or requisitioned will be made when C.C.S.O. Trinidad's report of voyage and of main items cargo with consignors and consignees is received. Instructions in your 0941Q/26 are correct.
(D.E.W.D. 1109B/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SUFFOLK search for BISMARCK'S oiler.

A.M. 1424B/26. SUFFOLK will require to fuel in Newfoundland subsequently. Request oiler may be arranged.
(D.O.D. (H) 1226B/27 to N.O.I.C. St.John's.)

RAMILLIES.

A.M. 1424B/25. My p.c. and s. are 1400 G.M.T. 044° 25' 041° ?01' 038° 15. S.S. BRITISH (?MONITOR or EMPIRE) (W.R.Note.) As received. Presumably should be BRITANNIC.) not in company. Have searched allowing her being one hour ahead and 4 hours behind schedule and 20 miles each side track visibility good.
(RAMILLIES, 1330Z/27, to R.A.3.)

SURCOUF.

My 2201Q/23. Proceed patrol within 100 miles of 023° N., 040° W., until further orders. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1632Q/27 to SURCOUF.)

GERMANIA.
TODARO.
MONBALDO.

German tanker GERMANIA left Las Palmas 0300 G.M.T./27.
Italian tanker TODARO left Teneriffe 0200 G.M.T./27.
Italian ship MONBALDO expected to leave Para today 27/5.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1700Q/27, to SURCOUF, CARADOC, etc.)

/SAN ADOLFO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

SAN ADOLFO. A.T. 1942/24. SAN ADOLFO is no longer required for this operation.
(V.C.N.S. 1809B/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

LACONIA. My 1157 P/17. On completion of escort duty LACONIA is to (?) return to Halifax.
(R.A.3. 1847P/27, to LACONIA.)

CHURCHILL
BURNHAM. Due St. John's N.F. 30/5. Request you will sail them after fuelling to escort H.X.130.
(C. in C. W.A., 1855B/27 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., amended 1522B/28.)

VILLAR
PEROSA Following extract from Fairmiss telegram. from Norfolk. T.O.O. 2212Z/27:-
Wilmington North Carolina departure 27/5 Italian ship VILLARPEROSA in tow to Brooklyn Naval Yard.
(M. of War Transport, No. T.O.O./27.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.5.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

U.S.11.

Your 1034B/25. E.T.A. Trincomalee (date).
(A.C.N.B. 0034Z/27, to Admty.)
Your 1033B/25. In order to avoid delay sailing U.S.11 intend sailing AQUITANIA direct from Fremantle to Wellington to lift New Zealand contingent. Request C. in C. E. I., signal anticipated arrival of AQUITANIA at Fremantle.
Anticipate U.S.11 sailing from Sydney and arriving Trincomalee (dates)
(A.C.N.B., 0206Z/27, to D. of S.T.)
At request of the C. in C. E.I., the two portions of convoy U.S.11 will be referred to as 11 A and 11 B in all future signals.
(A.C.N.B. 0303Z/27, to Admty., etc.)
Your 1457/24. Confirmed. Free French personnel will be included in U.S.11.
(A.C.N.B., 0554Z/27, to D.S.T.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.5.1941.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

START POINT

51.01 N., 22.07 W., sighted submarine. (Valentia Radio 1330/27 to Admty.)
SSSS 51 01 N., 22 01 W., START POINT sighted submarine. (Liverpool W/T 1335/27)
(W.D. Note - difference in minutes of longitude)
SSSS START POINT chased by submarine 51.08 N 22.02 W., 1352/27. (Liverpool, T.O.R. 1607/27)
(W.D. Note Difference in position)
If fuel permits proceed to assist START POINT chased by S/M in 051° 08' N., 022° 02' W at 1544B/27. (C. in C. W.A. 1624B/27 to ESKIMO)
Your 1624B. Regret fuel does not permit. My position is 054° 16' N., 014° 11' W. (ESKIMO 1735B/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

RODNEY STAR

My 1122/25. The 18 survivors ex RODNEY STAR arrived Dakar 26/5. (S.O.I. Freetown 1838N/27 to Admty.)

BENVRACKIE

My 2042/25 6 survivors ex BENVRACKIE landed Freetown 26/5 ship torpedoed in 02° 49' N., 20° 15' W., 13 of crew lost. (C. in C. S.A. 1840N/27)

LASSELL

My 2157/16. 10 Survivors including one woman passenger ex LASSELL landed Freetown 26/5. (C. in C. S.A. 1842N/27)

RADAMES (25/5)

Egyptian RADAMES torpedoed 1400N/25½ in approx. 06° N., 12° W. All crew except one saved on board VELOX (C. in C. S.A. 2100 N/27)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.5.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

? 4 U/B's — My 2140B/26. (48° N., 17° 30' W) A number of U-Boat signals have been made during the night from this vicinity. One U-Boat could have made all these but it is likely that at least 3 others have been called to this area. (D.D.I.C. 0707B/27)

0525 — By D/F at 0525/27 G.M.T. position of unknown enemy unit possible U-Boat was approx. 50° N., 20° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0817B/27)

0030 — D/F indicated U-Boat within 60 miles 010° N 016° 30' W., at 0030 N.,/27. Reliability of 80%. (C. in C. S.A. 1127N/27 to S.A. Sqdn.)

1026 — By D/F at 1026Z/27 an enemy U-Boat was within 60 miles of 47° N., 14° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1314B/27)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1400B/27)

1331 — Bt D/F at 1331Z/27 an enemy U-Boat was within 50 miles of 45° N., 22° W. (D.D.I.C. 1639B/27)

2228 — At 2228 G.M.T. German submarine 315° Class 3. (F.O.C.N.A. 2343/27 to N.A. Station)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

VANITY damaged.	VANITY was holed in collision at Milford Haven during last night.
Biscay S/M patrol.	Normal submarine patrols have been resumed in the Bay of Biscay.
Enemy T.B's in Channel.	From air R/C it is considered that the KONDOR, JAGUAR and WOLF, reported passing Cape Gris Nez yesterday morning, passed Gris Nez about 1300 today, speed 30 knots, course easterly.
LECH intercepted.	EDINBURGH intercepted German S.S. LECH at 1300Z/22 in 45° 33' N. 23° 25' W. The ship scuttled herself.
4th D.F.	In view of the urgent need of destroyers elsewhere C. in C. Plymouth has reported that the retention of the 4th D.F. (4 Tribals) in the Plymouth Command does not appear justified.

British Air Operations.

Patrols were flown off Brest throughout thday, including a special cross over patrol 240 miles west of Ushant.

An offensive patrol in search of enemy shipping was flown from Ushant to La Rochelle this morning. A merchant vessel of 5000 to 6000 tons was hit and left listing to Starboard and apparently settling.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attack on Home Fleet, MASHONA sunk.

KING GEORGE V and ships in company were shadowed from 0750 today. At 0913B C. in C. H.F. asked for fighter escort and reported that the oil fuel situation was serious. His position then was 53° 30' N. 11° 40' W., speed 19 knots.
NORFOLK was shadowed from 0853B and at 0915B she reported being bombed in approx. 53° 45' N. 13° W, but was not hit. RIPLEY reported being bombed at 1410 off Tory Island. TARTAR and MASHONA were bombed by F.W. aircraft at intervals from 0839B in 52° 52' N 11° 46' W. MASHONA was hit at 0924 and had to be abandoned. She sank at 1200. At 1715B TARTAR reported that she was still being bombed and no fighters were present, though C. in C. W.A. reports that one of the aircraft escorting her brought down an enemy aircraft near her at 1630B. TARTAR shot down one enemy aircraft at 1025.

H.M.T. CHILTERN shot down an enemy plane at 2325 today, whilst on patrol off Lamorna Cove.

A few bombs were dropped in the Plymouth area between 0011 and 0312 today. No casualties and only trifling Naval damage occurred.

Mining.

38 Hampdens laid mines last night off Brest and St. Nazaire.

Mines were detonated off Sheerness today. The Medway was reopened at 0803B. Blyth was opened at 1226B.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

French RABELAIS destroyed.

French S.S. RABELAIS was bombed and destroyed in Sfax harbour this afternoon by R.A.F. Blenheims, in mistake for Italian M/V FLORIDA II. An Italian destroyer in the harbour fired at the Blenheims.

Malta.

Two enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Malta and Gozo last night. No damage or casualties occurred.

Operation by UPRIGHT.

UPRIGHT carried out a landing at 0200 today, about 4 miles S.W. of Punto Stilo Light and blew up the railway line.

Attack on Crete.

Air Operations.

Wellingtons last night bombed and damaged enemy aircraft on the beach at Maleme.

Hurricanes and fighter Blenheims maintained patrols today over H.M. Ships en route to Crete from Egypt.

R/C's reported no shipping at sea betwwen Maleme and Zante Island and Ras Kinayia, Shipping was reported at Stampalia and Milo.

AJAX damaged.

AJAX was bombed and hit at 2016 but carried on in support of convoy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

The escort forces based on Newfoundland will be known as the Newfoundland Force.

The Admiralty consider that PRINZ EUGEN will operate on the normal H.X. convoy route in the near future. REPULSE is escorting H.X. 129. SUFFOLK is to operate on the H.X. convoy route. The U.S.A. and Canada have been asked to provide air and surface R/C in this area.

U-Boat Campaign.

18 of the crew of the LIFENEY STAR reported torpedoed en route Santos to Freetown 16/5 have been landed at Dakar.

It is reported that Greek S.S. PAPALEMOS was torpedoed today in approx. 8° 6' N. 16° 18' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Reports on Recent Operations.	Reports on recent operations are required as soon as possible. (V.C.N.S. 0032B/28).
C.S.1 to transfer to DEVONSHIRE.	It is of great importance that all lessons that can be learned from the operations against BISMARCK should be elucidated as soon as possible. C.S.1. should therefore disembark from NORFOLK before latter sails and transfer his flag to DEVONSHIRE. (1st S.L. 1045B/28 to C.S.1).
C.S.2. Transfer to AURORA.	Your 2307B/27; Flag will be transferred to AURORA and GALATEA has orders to leave for Greenock at 1600Z today. (C.S.2 1220Z/28 to Adty.)
DAGMAR.	CAPE PORTLAND 2145B/26. DAGMAR should be sent to Kirkwall for examination. (D.E.W.D. 1253B/28 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).
Unloading of ships E.4 and E.9. Labour difficulty.	If these ships are to sail on date arranged, it will almost certainly be necessary to shut in some cargo in each case. Amounts involved will depend on attitude of labour employed, and extent to which night work can be carried on. Up to 300/400 tons pig iron may remain in E.9 and 200/300 tons copper and a similar quantity of maizein E.4. Regional Port Director has been approached with a view to employment of military labour in event of refusal by dockers to work night shifts. (P.S.T.O. West Scotland 1300B/28).
PIORUN.	The new organisation of escorts makes it desirable that the Polish destroyers PIORUN should as a "long legger" be based at Newfoundland. Request concurrence of Admiral Swirski be obtained as soon as possible. (C. in C.W.A. 1610B/28 to Adty.)

/4th.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (contd).

4th D.F. Proposed withdrawal from Plymouth Command.	In view of urgent need for destroyers elsewhere retention of 4th D.F. in Plymouth Command does not now appear justified. reasons. (4) Propose 4th D.F. be withdrawn from this Command and the question of basing fleet destroyers at Plymouth be reconsidered later in light of future enemy dispositions. In meantime until more HUNTS become available I shall require reinforcements when important ships require escort through my command. -(C. in C. Plymouth 2201/28 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Rosyth A/A Gun Defences.	Since Nov. 1939 heavy A.A. guns sited for defence of dockyard and Fleet anchorage have been reduced from 68 guns static and mobile to 40. Should enemy learn presence of the PRINCE OF WALES at Rosyth it seems likely air attacks will take place. Request consideration may be given to filling some of the vacant sites with mobile 3.7 inch guns while this special need for protection exists. (C. in C. Rosyth 1830/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN.

Further to my 1029/27. Further account of action. (PRINCE OF WALES 0201Z/28)
See Lion Copy.
Your 1957/27. A. Did BISMARCK reply to your fire and if not why not?
B. Were any survivors from BISMARCK picked up and, if so, how many?
C. Reply when W/T silence is not necessary.
(1st S.L. 0234B/28 to C. in C. H.F.)
If not in company with PRINCE OF WALES return to Scapa. (R.A.D. 0957B/28 to ANTHONY)
Join C. in C.H.F. with all available destroyers with despatch. P.C.S. at 0913B/28 (as C. in C H.F. 0913B/28) (R.A.D. 1004/28 to D.3).
Intend KING GEORGE V and 3 destroyers to fuel at Loch Ewe arriving 0600B tomorrow. (C. in C.H.F. 1121/28).
My P.C. S. at 1300B are 054° 34' N. 010° 18' W. 053° 17.5 knots X 12. (C. in C. H.F. 1304B/28).
Propose detach TARTAR proceed with all despatch into nearest Irish Port to obtain fuel for full speed. (C. in C. H.F. 1414/28)
Has it been practicable to take any action on REPULSE's 00052/27. (V.C.N.S. 1438B/28 to R.A.3 B.S).
Your 1414/28. Approved if unable to reach British Port at a satisfactory speed. (D.O.D.H. 1457B/28 to C. in C.H.F).
Are you taking any action on my 1414. (C. in C.H.F. 1532/28 to Adty).
Your 1438B/28. Regret it was not possible to take any action as there were no ships within practicable range of this position. (C. in C.W.A. 1558B/28 to Adty).
Re. B.B.C. Broadcast. SIKH should have been included in description of night destroyer attack on BISMARCK. (C. in C.H.F. 1614B/28 to Adty.)
Report on the operation.
(S.O. Force H. 1623/28) See Lion Copy.

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN. (Contd.)

Your 0234B/28. (a) Yes in order RODNEY at about 24000 yards BISMARCK and KING GEORGE V. (b) DORSETSHIRE has four officers including -gunnery officer and 75 ratings. MAORI has 24 ratings. (C. in C.H.F. 1628/28 to Adty.)
Move patrol to area X.1. forthwith. (A.C.N.S.F. 1701B/28 to MALVERNIAN).
Boom defences at Aultbea are not yet complete A double line of loop mines is in operation. (A.C.N.S. H. 1718B/28 to C. in C.H.F).
A.M. 1457/28. Indicate your intentions. (A.C.N.S.H. 1746B/28 to TARTAR).
Proceed with despatch. Report E.T.A. Fuel immediately on arrival. (C. in C.W.A. 1810B/28 to WILD SWAN, VANSITTART, WIVERN).
Report on the operation. (C.S.1. 1921B/28) See Lion Copy.
Your 1743B/27. If not met by dark proceed to Scapa. (R.A.D.H.F. 1950B/28 to ACTIVE).
Am taking sufficient fuel to reach Scapa. Intend proceeding there at 20 knots via Minches. E.T.A. 1400B/29th. (F.O. 18th C.S. 2005B/28 to C. in C.H.F).
Expect to arrive 0115B tomorrow VANQUISHER. SIKH, MAORI, LEBION and COLUMBIA in company. (RODNEY 2005B/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
I urgently request 4th D.F., now dispersing to various Northern port to oil, may be concentrated at Scapa for a brief period, before proceeding Southwards or elsewhere. Reasons. (Capt. D.4 2006/28 to C. in C. Plymouth).
DORSETSHIRE with 4 Officers 75 ratings ex BISMARCK. E.T.A. 1500B/29. (DORSETSHIRE 2121B/28 to N.O.I.C. Tyne).
Your 1510B/27. BISMARCK's Senior survivor Lieut. Commander Baron Burkard Von Mullenheim states attack delivered by torpedo bombers at approx. 2100B/26 secured a hit on starboard quarter which jammed BISMARCK's rudders putting her out of control and thus reducing her S. of A. and so ensuring her subsequent destruction. Further emphatically he stated that only torpedoes which struck were from aircraft, three in number, and destroyers torpedoes did not hit.
(DORSETSHIRE 2124B/28 to Adty.)

/E.T.A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARK and PRINZ EUGEN. (contd).

E.T.A. 0130B/29. (C.S.1. 2153B/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
While on patrol do not get westward of longitude 022° 20' W. (C.S.2. 2248Z/28 to ARETHUSA).
Normal submarine patrols have been resumed in Bay of Biscay. (F.O.S. 2254B/28).
Ships on patrol in the Denmark Straits are to keep to the Eastward of a line 360° from North Cape.
2. These instructions are to remain in force until other orders have been given. (A.C.N.S.H.2315B/28).

LECH intercepted.

E.T.A. in EDINBURGH 1500B. Request escort be provided for 40 prisoners crew of German S.S. LECH. (C.S.18 0739B/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
German ship LECH intercepted in 045° 33' N. 023° 25' W. at 1300Z/22. Ship scuttled herself by explosive charges. (C.S.18 0749B/28 to Adty).

Sweep by M.T.B's.

Should weather be unsuitable for P.W.(10) but possible for other operations, M.T.Bs from unit No. 2 are to sweep between Nieuport and Zeeburge object to destroy shipping found and check buoys off Ostend. Surface craft met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1502B/28 to BEEHIVE).

Channel Patrol.

Intend 3 M.L's to patrol 5 miles to South of convoy route tonight from 1° 50' W. to 3° W. to cover SERVICE returning to Portland at dawn. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1923B/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Search for cruiser and attack on M/V.	On 27/5, five miles off Hague, A/C attacked Convoy of eight 800 ton Vessels. One direct hit claimed. 52 Wellingtons and 12 Stirlings were detailed to search for the Hipper class cruiser over a wide area but no sign of the enemy ship was seen although visibility except in showers was 15 miles. During the search two Arado 196 and a DO. 17 attempted an attack on one of our formations but evaded immediately on being replied to. On night 26/27 no operations except mine-laying. (H.Q.B.C. 0117/28).
Bombing Restrictions.	F.O.(S) 1531/27. T.B.R. are in force south of 065° N. between 002° W. and 003° E. (Capt. S.9 1013B/28).
Vatnsmyri aerodrome. Reykjavik.	Runaway completed. Description. (G.O.C. Iceland 1325/28).
Patrols.	Patrols STAND and HORNLI now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1356/28).
St. Nazaire Area.	Your 1755/27. Concur. This target has been noted for early attention. (A.C.N.S. H. 2320B/28 to C. in C. Plymouth.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

REGISTAN
(Bombed 27/5)

Departure tug GOLIATH escorted by M/Ls 181 and 184 to assist M/V reported on fire off Lands End. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0058/28).
Your 0244. On arrival of GOLIATH and M.L. proceed in execution of previous orders landing survivors at Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth 0448/28 to WIVERN).
My 0244 and your 0448. REGISTAN still afloat and burning amidships. GOLIATH and M.L. 186 in attendance. M.L. 181 investigating boat reported off Pendeen. Total number survivors picked up 36 of which 8 dead. Captain of REGISTAN and 5 men remaining in their ship. Am proceeding. (WIVERN 0730B/28 to C. in C. Plymouth).
REGISTAN bombed and abandoned and on fire in 270° Cape Cornwall 8 miles at 2300/27. Survivors being landed at Milford Haven. Ship now reported has 30° list to Port and in tow to Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 0908/28).
REGISTAN still sinking towing impracticable standing by. (GOLIATH 0910/28).

EVESHAM.

(A/P Trawler) Sunk by near bomb misses 2215/27 No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0701B/28).

Air attack
on Home Fleet.

Aircraft shadowing me bearing 270° distance 12 miles my position is 53° 14' N. 11° 40' W. (C. in C. H.F. 0750/28).
Am still being shadowed by F.W. aircraft. (C. in C.H.F. 0838B/28 to C. in C.W.A).

TARTAR
attacked.
MASHONA
sunk.

5 F.W. bombing my position 52° 52' N. 11° 46' W. Course 026 speed 15 knots. (TARTAR 0839B/28).
Am being shadowed by one enemy A/C bearing 180° distance 4 miles 170 53° 40' N. 13° W. Course 045 speed 18 knots. (NORFOLK 0853B/28)
My 0853. One Heinkel. (NORFOLK 0856B/28).
Request fighter escort. Oil fuel situation serious. My position 053° 30' 011° 40. Course 045° speed 19 knots. (C. in C.H.F. 0913B/28 to C. in C.W.A).
My 0853B. Enemy aircraft bombing. (NORFOLK 0915B/28).
My 0839. Enemy still bombing. No hits yet. (TARTAR 0915B/28).

/MASHONA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

TARTAR attacked. MASHONA sunk. (contd).

MASHONA hit. (TARTAR 0924/28).
My 0915B. No hits. No longer in contact. (NORFOLK 0929B/28).
Shadowing aircraft transmitting homing A apostrophe S on 375 Kilocycles. (C. in C. H.F. 0932/28 to C. in C.W.A).
Enemy still bombing. (TARTAR 0950B/28)
MASHONA being attacked by enemy aircraft, my position 52° 58' N. 11° 36' W. (TARTAR 0955/28).
MASHONA abandoned ship. Am collecting survivors. More attacks expected. (TARTAR 1045B/28);
My 0?29. Enemy still bombing. No hits. (TARTAR 1050/28).
Coastal and Fighter Commands are already doing everything possible. They will be assisted if you keep close inshore. (V.C.N.S. 1105B/28 to C. in C.H.F, C.S.1 and TARTAR) (D.O.D.H. 1236B/28).
When may I expect fighter protection. ST CLAIR and SHERWOOD in company. My P.C. and S. 52° 25' N. 11° 6' W. X 12. 022; 15. (TARTAR 1225B/28 to Liverpool).
About 20 enemy aircraft proceeding in your direction passed area of Scillies between 1145 and 1220. (D.D.I.C. 1248B/28 to C. in C H.F., etc).
Fighter Command are still emphasing that they can only afford you Fighter protection if you are close inshore. (A.C.N.S.H. 1315B/28 to C. in C.H.F. C.S.1. TARTAR).
Intermittent bombing continuing. P.C. and S. 212° Slyne Head 30 miles 022° 15 knots. (TARTAR 1403/28).

RIPLEY bombed.

Am being bombed My position 070° Tory Island 80. (RIPLEY 1410/28).

A/C have been ordered to establish R/T communication. (C. in C.W.A. 1414B/28 to C. in C.H.F).
Is MASHONA still afloat. If so tugs will be sent. (D.O.D.H. 1439B/28 to TARTAR)

/MASHONA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

MASHONA capsized and sank 1200. Captain is in TARTAR. (TARTAR 1517B/28).
My 1414B/28. Aircraft are using 2410 KC/S. (C. in C.W.A. 1525B/28 to C. in C.H.F).
5 aircraft bombing Posn. 226 Slyne Head 14 course 022 speed 14 knots. (TARTAR 1525B/28)
Your 1414. Confirm 2410 k/cs. Nothing heard yet. (C. in C.H.F. 1546/28 to C. in C. W.A).
Enemy still bombing. (?No) fighters. P. C. and S. 320° Slyne Head (?6 or 9 miles) 360° 5 knots. (TARTAR 1715B/28).
Your aircraft are fighting hard for you and more are being sent. (C. in C.W.A. 1814B/28 to TARTAR).
Of 14 Officers and 215 ratings in MASHONA Lieut. Cdr. Elliot and 45 ratings were lost. Am proceeding Londonderry. SHERWOOD, ST. CLAIR in company. Propose taking survivors to Greenock after oiling. (TARTAR 1911B/28).
One of your escorting A/C brought down an H.E. 111 in your vicinity at 1630B/28, two of the crew baling out. (C. in C.W.A. 2227B/28 to TARTAR).
E.T.A. 0500/29. SHERWOOD and ST. CLAIR in company. Request hospital drifter for about 12 cases. (TARTAR 2305B/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Plymouth Area bombed.

Approximately twelve hostile planes passed over Plymouth area between 0011/28 and 0312/28, some of which dropped H.E. 1/Bs and flares, mainly in outlying districts.
One H.E. 25 yards from Heybrook Camp, Wembury, minor roof damage, no casualties.
One H.E. on fair ground, (Admiralty property for open air storage) Ferry Road, Morice Town. No casualties or damage reported. (C. in C. Plymouth 0856/28).

/Departures.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Departures paddle M/S MARMION towed by tug KENIA for Tilbury, escorted by A/S trawler GREENFLY. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1055B/28).

Convoy WHEEL. ROYKSUND (Norwegian, 695Tons) sunk on 27/5.

ARTIC EXPLORER landed 2 survivors and 1 body from ROYKSUND sunk off Padstow in WHEEL. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1205/28).

S.S. DIANA (attacked 26/5)

Five machine gun attacks made on British (ex Danish) DIANA between 0500 and 0545Z/26 in -061° 35' N. (corrupt group) 06' W. by single aircraft believed H.E. 111. 3 near misses with oil bombs. No material damage to ship and 1 slight injury. Aircraft not visibly affected by ship's fire. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1310/28).

H.E. STROUD. (Bombed 26/5).

Red ensign trawler STAR OF DON bound Kirkwall with Aberdeen trawler H.E. STROUD in tow. Vessel picked up at sea with no crew on board. Request instructions. (AXDO Kirkwall 1927/27).

TRILLIUM.

Request fighter assistance one enemy aircraft My position 55° 8' N. 9° 3' W. (TRILLIUM 2320/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Medway. — River Medway is closed to traffic in Short and Gillingham Reaches till further orders. (C. in C. Nore 0111B/28).
River Medway open to traffic. Instructions for traffic. (C.in C. Nore 0803B/28).

Blyth. — Port of Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1226B/28)

Operation, B.S. 63. — Particulars. To be carried out by TEVIOT BANK on 30/5 or soon after. (V.C.N.S. 1336B/28).

Operation P.W. 10. — Weather permitting carry out P.W.10 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1502B/28 to BEEHIVE).

9th M/S Flotilla. Clearance Sweep. — Your 1125B/6. 9th M.S.F. is required to clear area defined in Q.Z.Y. 208. They will be under operational command of C. in C. Plymouth and based on Dartmouth. Request you will sail them on completion of present operation. (D.M.S. 2226B/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. — Visual R/C of Brest at 0815B/28 shows SCHARNHORST in usual position. Pilot unable to see dry docks. (D.D.I.C. 1146B/28) Photographic R/C 0815/28. Both battlecruisers present in same positions. (D.D.I.C. 1930B/28).

/LEITH.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (contd).

LEITH. Suspected Sabotage.	A suspected case of Sabotage occurred in E.R. 14502 last night involving damage to A/S gear on bridge. Considered damage not very serious and can be replaced by date of completion. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 1535B/28).
Kiel.	Preliminary report of photographic R/C 1430/28. (1) TIRPITZ in S. floating dock. (2) SCHEER alongside. (3) HIPPER in dry dock. (D.D.I.C. 1551B/28).
KONDOR. JAGUAR. WOLF.	My 0754B/27 and 0837B/27. From aerial R/C it is considered these vessels passed Gris Nez about 1300 today. Course easterly, speed about 30 knots. (V.A. Dover 1612B/28).

Weather.

Ice.	Air R/C Denmark Straits shows ice breaking up and well built ship probably able to pass anywhere. Photographic R/C now being made. (N.O.i/C Iceland 1801/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

VANITY holed.	VANITY has been damaged in collision whilst leaving harbour. Is holed above and below waterline. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0250B/28)
IMPULSIVE.	IMPULSIVE reports has serious damage number 3 boiler room and requires dockyard assistance Maximum speed 26 knots. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0904/28).
PRINCE OF WALES.	Sailed PRINCE OF WALES, ELECTRA, ECHO, ACHATES. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1115/28).
ECLIPSE.	My 1547/23. Discovery of further defects caused delay in completion. Now anticipate sailing ECLIPSE 9/6. (C. in C. Plymouth 1251/28).

Shipping and Convoys.

JOSEFINA THORDEN.	Sailed for Kirkwall at 0105 Finnish Tanker JOSEFINA THORDEN towed by fleet tug BRIGAND and MARAUDER escorted by NORTHERN ISLES and HAMLET. E.T.A. 0700/29. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0110/28 to A.C.O.S). Cancel my 0110/28, ships have returned owing to bad weather. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0430/28). My 0430/28. Ship is an unmanageable tow in anything but continuous flat calm. Hazardous to move her until she has been lightened. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1255/28 to A.C.O.S. My 1255/28. Recommend ship should remain where she is and Salvage expert take charge. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1750/28 to A.C.O.S).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday:

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (contd).

W.S.9A. — Re delays. Request immediate confirmation that embarkation programme can still be maintained. (D.S.T. 0350B/28, to P.S.T.O. West of Scotland).

W.S.8B. — Following 5 troop transports sailed U.K. 22/5 in W.S.8B. Numbers on board, destinations, bunkers, water, etc. (D.O.D.(F) 1252B/28, D. of S.T. 1916B/28 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C.E.I.) See Lion Copy.

PETROPHALT. Oiler. — To stand by to proceed to sea at short notice. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1736B/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry) Cancel my 1736B/28 on arrival of TARTAR. (D.O.D.(H) 2252B/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

W.S.8X. — Convoy and escorts detailed are to come to two hours' notice. (C. in C.W.A. 1846B/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
My 1846B/28. W.S.8X and escort at Clyde and Londonderry are to revert to 4 hours' notice. (C. in C.W.A. 1946B/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Use of D/Cs. — Instructions for use of depth charges by single unescorted merchant vessels in D.E.M.S pamphlet No. 2, 1940, amended as follows. (D.T.D. 2109B/28 "A" Message) See Lion Copy. Amended, see 1302/31.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders. My 1748B/21. No known activity by armed merchant raiders this week.

North Atlantic. PRINCE EUGEN believed at sea, but probably no merchant raiders in N. Atlantic. Vessels overdue at Freetown and Rio de Janeiro believed to be U/B casualties.

South Atlantic. Press reports ZAMZAM sunk 17/4 27° 41' S. 08° 08' W. Survivors transferred to DRESDEN which sailed Santos 28/3 and landed St. Jean de Luz. Raider was commanded by Rogge so was presumably No. 16 D/F indicated a unit in area St. Helena Tristan da Cunha Capetown on 26/5. This unit thought to have been at sea for a considerable period and may be 16. On the other hand 16 may be returning home.

Indian Ocean. Nothing to report.

Pacific Ocean. KULMERLAND with survivors from ships sunk by Pacific raiders met SCHEER in South Atlantic in early March and then proceeded to Bordeaux. Probably no raiders in Pacific. (D.D.I.C. 1745B/28 to C. in C. H.F. N.A. Washington, F.O.C.N.A. etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MADRID.	German, 8777 tons, which left Las Palmas 11/12/40, stated to have arrived in a German occupied port. (D.S. 631, 28/5).
Report.	My 0032B/28. Request you will also signal a summary of operations of Force H. (D.O.D. (H) 0212B/28 to S.O. Force H).
CANARIAS, BISMARCK survivors.	Spanish Cruiser CANARIAS left Ferrol 1400/27 to search for survivors of BISMARCK. (D.C. 0535B/28 to F.O.C.N.A. etc.).
CITY OF DIEPPE SEVERN.	Your 2326/27. Estimate CITY OF DIEPPE will be 420 miles ahead of SEVERN at noon/28. Maximum speed of CITY OF DIEPPE is 15 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 0646B/28 to Admty.). Your 1719B/24 and 2326B/27. Confirm it is your intention for SEVERN to proceed to St. Johns N.F. My 0646B/28 refers. (F.O.C.N.A 1152B/28 to Admty.) Your 0646B/28. Cancel my 2326B/27. SEVERN is to return to Gibraltar. (V.C.N.S. 1120B/28 to F.O.C.N. A). Return to Gibraltar forthwith by direct route adjusting speed to arrive during daylight/29. (F.O.C.N.A. 1508A/28 to SEVERN.) SEVERN estimated position 2000B/28 037° (? 05') 012° 25' returning to Gibraltar direct, speed 15 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1510A/28 to N.A. Stn.).
MOUNT LYCABETTUS (Greek).	Left Oporto via Fayal, Azores 27/5 believed making for U.S. should be sent in if encountered. (F.O.C.N.A. 0843/28 to N.A. Stn. amended 1531A/28).

/FAULKNOR.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FURY, WISHART. — Departure in accordance with F.O.C.N.A's 1640B/27. (S.O.I. Gibr., 1000A/28 to S.O. Force H).
Pass through 036° 20' N. 009° 20' W. at 0700B/29 steering 280°. (S.O. Force H., 1749B/28 to Capt. D.8).

GERMANIA. — Grade B.1. Master of Portuguese ship SERPO PINTO reports at Dawn/27 large German tanker left Las Palmas and steered northerly course. (Consul, Madeira, 1057/28 to Admty.)

NELSON. — Am proceeding by route given in C. in C. S.A. 2359N/25 S. of A. 15 knots. E.T.A. 0600A/2/6. (NELSON 1401Z/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

BISMARCK survivors. — Your 1631/27. Attention of Minister of Marine should be drawn to Art. 13 of 10th Hague Convention from which it is clear that any survivors taken on board Spanish man-of-war must be so dealt with that they do not again take part in operations of war. You should stress that the obligation attaches once they are taken on board and they cannot thereafter be transferred to any other ship nor returned to German controlled territory. (Head of M. 1529B/28 to N.A. Madrid).

TRUANT suspicious tanker. — Admty. 2345B/27. Area for search has centre 100 miles 324° from position reported in your 1657Z/27. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1659B/28 to TRUANT).

Enemy Unit. — German Surface Unit bearing 315° 2nd class from Gibraltar at 1613 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A., 1755A/28 to S.O. Force H).
By D/F at 1613 G.M.T. enemy unit in 47° 30' N 15° 30' W. unreliable fix. Probably surface rescue craft. There are at least two U/Bs operating in this area. (D.D.I.C. 2225B/28 to S.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A. etc).

/Gibraltar.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Gibraltar D/F Unit.	My 1932/6/5 and your 1300/14. Proposal for D/F unit, re evacuation. (F.O.C.N.A. 2128A/28 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
ARGUS.	Adjust speed to arrive Northern entrance 0001B/31. Operation of transferring A/C is to be carried out with utmost despatch with object of sailing you before daylight, 31/5. (F.O.C.N.A., 2322B/28 to ARGUS).

South Atlantic.

CANADOLITE.	British tanker, 11309 tons, which had been presumed sunk by enemy action in South Atlantic, now known to have been captured and taken to a German port. (D.S. 631, 28/5)
TROLLEHOLM.	Swedish, 5047 tons, overdue at Capetown since 17/4, now presumed sunk by enemy action, as relatives of crew have received letters stating they are prisoners of war. (D.S. 631, 28/5).
BANFORA. CRITON. BOURBONNAIS. (French).	Portuguese JOAO BELO sailed 27/5 for Casablanca and Funchal. Due Casablanca 4/6. Embarked all remaining passengers and crew S.S. BANFORA except 2 passengers for whom special arrangements are being made. Also crews of S.S. CRITON and BOURBONNAIS less those who transferred to Free French forces. (C. in C. S.A. 0027N/28 to Admty.)
GASCONY. CORDILLERA. TEWKESBURY.	Cancel my 1105/26. GASCONY and CORDILLERA arrived Saint Vincent. TEWKESBURY sunk by Submarine. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1032N/28).

/NELSON.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NELSON.	Cancel Admty. 1357B/27 and 2327B/27. NELSON is to proceed to Gibraltar in accordance with Admty. 0036B/26. Frequent changes of direction regretted, but you may be assured there are good reasons. (V.C.N.S. 1104B/28 to C. in C. S.A). Cancel my 2213N/27, comply with Admty. 1104B/28. Detach destroyers to proceed to Bathurst to arrive a.m./29. (C. in C. S.A. 1131N/28 to NELSON).
Dutch Tug FOSNA. BERHALA.	Faults in routeing in Freetown area. (C. in C.S.A. 1125N/28 to Adty.).
VASNA.	Hospital Ship VASNA ready to sail from Freetown 29/5. Request destination. (C. in C S.A. 1133N/28 to Admty.) Reply: Liverpool (D. of S.T. 0357B/30).
Enemy Unit.	D/F Bearings 2051Z/27 indicate possibility of enemy surface unit within 150 miles of 037° S. 005° E. reliability 45% and at 0917Z/28, one within 60 miles of 030° S. 007° W. reliability 65%. These suggest movements from area given in my 1125N/27. (C. in C. S.A., 1331N/28 to S.A. Stn).
Minesweepers, S. Africa.	Admty. 1243B/25/5. Re provision of crews. TREERN GRIBB SEKSERN and IMHOFF will sail 31/5 for fitting of LL gear at Alexandria. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1559B/28 to Admty.).
CARNARVON CASTLE. CILICIA.	Capetown departure 1550/28 CARNARVON CASTLE and CILICIA in company for patrol in K 1 in accordance with your 1425/27. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1603Z/28 to C. in C. S.A).
LIEUT. ST. LOUBERT BIE.	Durban arrivals PRETORIA CASTLE and Vichy French Ship LIEUT. ST LOUBERT BIE. (N.L.O. Durban 1610Z/28 to Admty. etc).

/Troop.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Troop Transports.

Your 1834/27 and my 1425/27. Unless EMPRESS OF ASIA and THYSVILLE will be ready before 31/5 PRETORIA CASTLE leaving Durban on arrival 30/5 should proceed at once towards Capetown to meet the two ships on 1/6 and escort to Durban. PRETORIA CASTLE then proceed to East London to escort CAMERONIA to Capetown and on to Freetown as in my 1819/27. If certain ships will be ready before 31/5 CARNARVON CASTLE can be used to escort PRETORIA CASTLE to meet if this will free CARNARVON CASTLE earlier. Request early report of intention. (C. in C. S.A. 1745N/28 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

BRITANNIA. (sunk by raider 25/3).

Reporting Officer Maranham reports CAYRU sailed for Trinidad 28/5 via Para with 38 survivors from BRITANNIA, Trinidad will disembark 11 Naval personnel. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1843Z/28, to Admty).

S.S. DEFENDER MARIONGA.

Your 1142/18 and my 2020/19 to DEFENDER which has been passed to you. Ship has been ordered direct to Cape but not rerouted otherwise as report of crossing 20° N. and her route not received. Greek ship MARIONGA is believed to have been sunk on 22/5. This ship has not been reported crossing 20° N. and route was not known. (C. in C. S.A. 1844N/28 to Admty.)

C. Verde Is. defence.

Lisbon informed we are prepared to release/ at once three guns for Cape Verde Islands. (W.O 1845/28 to G.O.C. W. Africa).

German A.M.C. and HERMES.

Secret source C 3/4 states German A.M.C. in position 24° 56' S. 28 12 W. waiting arrival S.S. HERMES from Rio de Janeiro. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1917Z/28 to Admty.) Additional details German HERMES ex KARNACK now at Rio de Janiero. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2044Z/28 to S.A.D).

/NORDERNEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NORDERNEY. (German).	My 2032/27. NORDERNEY returned to anchorage after filling up with drinking water. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2112Z/28 to R.A.S.A.D).
CARNARVON CASTLE. CILICIA.	My 1603/28. Due to adverse weather CARNARVON CASTLE unable to carry out full calibre firing (?practice) or to (?handle) degaussing gear for change of polarity. S.E.E. and C.O. consider a very desirable test on degaussing range be carried out at earliest opportunity. (ii) As CARNARVON CASTLE was ready for sea in other respects she sailed with CILICIA p.m. today 28 instead of 29/5 in accordance with your 1425/27. (iii) Capetown degaussing range will be ready for use very shortly. (N.O. i/c Simonstown 2115Z/28 to C. in C. S.A).
BUTTERFLY. XXIV MAGGIO AFRICANA AIDA LAURO.	My 1753/25 for 850 tons ready 1600 (BUTTERFLY cargo cotton, etc) XXIV MAGGIO has returned to anchorage having loaded 1100 tons including some Berylium. AFRICANA is loading and AIDA LAURO has been listed for painting lower shell plates. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2305Z/28 to Cdre. S.A.D).
Enemy Oiler, EAGLE and DUNEDIN to search.	Information A1 indicates enemy fast oiler will be within 30 miles of position 28° N. 34° 40' W. P.M./2 onwards for fuelling PRINZ EUGEN. Request you will arrange for EAGEE and DUNEDIN to carry out air search of this area as soon as possible. It appears DUNEDIN could arrive Bathurst on 30/5. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2329B/28 to C. in C.S.A)
LATONA.	Admty. 0032B/29. E.T.A. Freetown 0600/30. (LATONA 2330N/28 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

KASSA.	Hungarian, 1022 tons, reported making for Aegean with 5 German officers and cargo of searchlights, A/A guns, etc. (D.S. 631, 28/5)
TISZA.	Hungarian, 961 tons, reported 27/5 to be loading a similar cargo at Constanza for Aegean and will pass Istanbul about 28-29/5. (D.S. 631, 28/5).
CANADA.	Your 1636 and your 1640/26. No sign of French Hospital Ship CANADA yet. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 09030/28 to C. in C. Med.)
EMPIRE SONG.	(Mined at Malta 9/5) Conclusions of inquiry. (V.A. Malta 1158B/28) See Lion Copy.
Oil fuel.	Your 15540/12. (No Crude of Furnace Oil is to be released without reference to me (C. in C. Med.)) Socony Vuum Oil Company are proposing to receive 500 Tons of Fuel Oil from Refinery. May permission be given for this release. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 10200/28).
TORBAY.	Leaving 031° 22' 029° 12' at 18300/28 thence through 033° 38' 029° 12' at 18000/29. Passing Scarpanto Channel northbound p.m/30. (Capt. S.1, 14050/28 to Med. Fleet at Sea.
French M.V. attacked at Sfax in mistake for FLORIDA II (Italian).	1. 340 28/5. Special Operational Summary. -On information that Italian M/V previously identified and attacked was off Sfax Harbour two Blenheims 139 Sq. sent to attack. Owing to bad visibility ship was not seen in expected position but 8 250-lbs bombs were released on similar M/V 4,000 - 5,000 tons in harbour. No flag or markings on ship attacked but ship evidently loaded with ammunition as all 8 bombs scored direct hits followed by enormous explosion and vast column of black smoke. Time of attack 1117 hours G.M.T. Slight inaccurate light A.A. from Italian destroyer in Sfax Road and from Merchant Ships. Both Blenheims returned undamaged. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1500/28 amended 1815/28).

/This.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

French M.V. attacked at Sfax in mistake for FLORIDA II (Italian.) (Contd.)	This afternoon 2 Blenheims were despatched to deal with Italian M/V FLORIDA in French Territorial Waters and known to be loading phosphates. Orders were given by H.Q. Med. to attack ship in Sfax Roads and position on chart was shown to Pilots. Orders were given to Pilot who it was understood was to be leader of flight. This Pilot was changed at last moment and did not turn over necessary full orders to new leader. Blenheims bombed M.V. which they considered was FLORIDA and which was alongside in Sfax Harbour. She blew up and from secret source proved to be French M.V. RABELAIS of 5,000 tons. Same secret source now suggest bombardment of FLORIDA this evening would have excellent moral effect which would point to understanding of realization of an unfortunate error on our part. This will naturally not be carried out. It is much regretted if this incident should cause embarrassment to H.M.G. 1955B/28.
M.V.	One M.V. D.9 429 NYYB 0556 360 Q 10. (Malta W/T 1542Z/28 via Nore W/T) W.D. Note - Coordinates undecypherable.
Malta Air Raid.	Enemy air activity. Night 27th/28th 9 Italian aircraft attempted to raid the Island separately between 2100 to 0240 G.M.T. Only two located Island. 1 stick dropped on Gozo and another on Malta causing no damage or casualties. 1700/28.)
Convoy A.N. 31.	Returned Alexandria. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria 1825/28 to Admty. etc).

/CANADA.....

MOST SECRET.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

CANADA. (French).	Your 1636 and 1640 /26. Hospital Ship CANADA arrived at Beyrout 27/5 or possibly 26/5 but did not call at Haifa. E.T.L. Beyrout 29/5 or 30/5. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1825/28
Suez Canal.	Situation report. Following Merchant Ship movements carried out today. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 19010/28).
Enemy Units Messina. Attack on convoy, 27/5.	Further my I 341, 28/5 Maryland R/C Messina and approaches sighted at 1340 G.M.T. 3 M.Vs 8 to 10,000 tons escorted by 3 destroyers 36.20 N. 11. 50 E. course 030° 12 knots. Same time 3 Cruisers 36.20 N. 12.00 E. couse 180° 20 knots. Messina harbour 16.30, 3 or cruisers 3 possibly more destroyers, 2 M/Vs 3,000 tons and some smaller vessels. Ref. my I.338, 27/5 photos taken by Blenheims of 10,000 ton M.V. attacked and left down by stern reveal decks heavily packed with M/T. (H.Q. Malta, 1915/28).
Air Reconn. Sicily.	In lieu of reconnaissance given in my A. -884 27/5 intend two Maryland leave 133 B daily until further order searching belt 120 miles wide centre line 060° Malta to Greek Coast, as this appears to give better results. (H.Q. Malta, 1920/28 to C. in C. Med).
PERSEUS.	Cancel my 19310/24. Return patrol area given in Memo. S.O. 14 para 3. (Capt. S.1. 20110/28 to PERSEUS).
Enemy Units.	Aircraft R/C 28/5 1540B, 3 Cruisers 036° 20' 012° 00' 180° 20 knots; 1820B, 3 cruisers 3 destroyers 2 small Merchant ships Messina. (Cdr.t. S.1. 2102B/28 to UNIQUE UPRIGHT).
FLORIDA II. (Italian).	Loaded with phosphates is expected to leave Sfax tonight 28/5. (V.A. Malta, 2130B/28 to UTMOST, UNIQUE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

Crete.	Operational Summary No. 352 up to 1200 hours 28/5/41. Maryland R/C in early morning reported 3 H.M. Ships being heavily bombed by enemy between Crete and Scarpanto. No coastal shipping at sea between Suda Bay and Sitia Bay, and in area 30 miles north of Crete. 5 medium ships outside breakwater Heraklion. During morning 16 enemy troop carriers dropped stores 6 miles S.E. Heraklion and seaplanes landed troops Suda Bay.
Benghazi bombed.	Night May 26/27. Two Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour starting fires at base of Cathedral Mole which demolished one large building.
FORMIDABLE.	Day 27/5. One Ju. 88 intercepted and damaged by patrol of 3 Hurricanes engaged in protection FORMIDABLE en route to Alexandria after damage to flight deck by dive-bombing. A Hurricane located 3 lifeboats containing survivors of bombed British trawler off Ras Uenna. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1136/28).
Communications.	Crete communication at 1200/28. MAY has closed down but may set watch again occasionally on 4205 k.c's per second. At present holding A cypher only. MAY 2 and 3 are still on 4205 kcs. per second. Both have Syko only with V Card. T cards are used by R.A.F. A secure line exists from Alexandria to Candia by cable in plain language. (C. in C. Med., 1211C/28 to Med. Fleet).
Enemy Units.	P.C. and S. of enemy (1 cruiser 3 destroyers, 3 merchant vessels) are YBNG 2540 030° 6 knots. (Malta via Nore W/T 1440/28 to Whitehall W.T). W.D. Note - YB = 11° E.long. N.G. = 36° N. lat. not clear whether numerals have been transposed in the same way.

/GLOUCESTER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 28.5.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd).

GLOUCESTER FIJI ammunition. — Your 1657B/26. This was considered and rejected for following reasons. Primary function of FIJI and GLOUCESTER was to destroy seaborne expedition to Crete and there was definite possibility of intervention by enemy fleet. (C. in C. Med., 1744/28 to Admty.)

AJAX damaged. — AJAX hit, has internal fire but carrying on (C.S.7 (via Nore W/T) 2016/28).
AJAX returning Alexandria passing Kaso 2300, 28 knots. (C.S.7, 2153/28 to C. in C. Med.).

C.S.7 air attacks. — Following has been read. A good many attacks. -Should like fighters at dawn Kaso. (C.S.7 1957C/28).
Expect escort of 2 Fulmars from 1130/29. -(R.A.(A) Med. 2131/28 to C.S.7).

Your 1957C/28. Fighter protection during daylight at 0530/29 in Kaso Straits. Fulmars will take over about 150 miles from Alexandria. Glen Martins Blenheims or Hurricanes. (C. in C. Med. 2221C/28 to C.S.7).
Fighter protection may be expected at daylight/29 approx. position 110° Gavdo 65 miles Blenheims Glen Martins or Hurricanes (C. in C. Med., 2223C/28 to Capt. D.7).

Losses. — Re replacement. (1st S.L., 2356B/28 to C. in C. Med) See Mediterranean. Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U.S. 11 tankers. — A.M. 1034/25. Similar Water arrangements will be necessary. Fuel could be supplied with only one additional tanker, assume oiler APPLELEAF to be available as there is not so much need for haste on return voyage. (C. in C. E.I. 0958Z/28 to Admty.)

COLOMBO. — To leave Mombasa p.m/29 and carry out following programme: 30/5 a.m. arrive Dar-Es-Salaam, p.m. leave. 31/5 a.m. arrive Lindi, p.m. leave. 1/6 p.m. arrive Mombasa. (C. in C. E.I. 1236Z/28 to COLOMBO).

Kites for A.M.C's. — Your 1536Z/24. Kites are approved for A.M.Cs. -Fitting in other warships depends on their employment but kites are not recommended for destroyers. No objection is seen to fitting in A.M.Cs or otherwarships in your Command if their employment is considered to justify doing so. (D.T.S.D. 2236B/28 to C. in C.E.1).

China.

LINOIS. GOUVERNEUR G.M. LONG. (French.) — Following is extract from Fairmiss telegram from Saigon T.O.O. 0907Z/25. Departure 24/5 LINOIS for Haiphong. 25/5 GOUVERNEUR GENERAL MAURICE LONG Macao. (M. of W.T. No T.O.O/28)

KINDIA. (French). — Extract from A Fairmiss telegram from Saigon T.O.O. 0810Z/28/5/41. Arrival 27/5 KINDIA French Ship. (M. of W.T. No T.O.O./28)

LIVERPOOL. — Manila departure 0710/25 LIVERPOOL for Honolulu. Route San Bernardinø thence Great Circle. Speed 14 knots. (S.O.I. Singapore, 1109Z/28 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MALAYA.

Your 2107/15/4. Is it intended that MALAYA shall leave the U.S. without midshipmen? All have now left. Ship completes on 1/7. 1629/27. (B.A.R.M. 0926/28 to Admty.)

QUITO.
BOGOTA.
RHAKOTIS.
FRANKFURT.

C.A.F.O. 422/40 QUITO and BOGOTA sailed from Coquimbo 1100Z/17. RHAKOTIS sailed from Antofagasta 2100Z/17. FRANKFURT sailed from Talcahuano 2055Z/17. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1008Q/28 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D., C.O.I.S. Singapore).

REPULSE.

Your 2330Z/27. Return to harbour and complete to full stowage. Despatch is necessary. (V.C.N.S. 1012B/28 to REPULSE).
Has oiler TEAKWOOD been diverted to comply with Admty. 1012B/28 and what is her E.T.A. at Concepcion? If desired ROYALITE can replenish from TEAKWOOD. Report stocks remaining in oilers after each fuelling. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1112B/28 to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F).
A.M. 1012B/28. Admiralty appreciation is that EUGEN will operate on normal H.X. route in immediate future. This route lies along:- 42° N. 52° W. 44° N. 47° W. 55° N. 41° W. 61° N. 30° W.
2. REPULSE is to escort H.X. 129, as far as 30° W.
3. H.X. 129 and B.H.X. portion will join in position DD 42° 32' N. 51° 48' W. at 1200 G.M.T./30. Convoy will then pass through position R 43° 00' N. 39° 00' W.
position S 52° 30' N. 26° 30' W.
position T 56° 20' N. 13° 00' W.
4. In the light of your knowledge of arrival of oilers you should decide whether to return to Newfoundland to fuel first. (D.O.D.(H) 1333B/28 to REPULSE amended 1608/B/28).
REPULSE returned to Conception Bay Newfoundland 1715Z today to await arrival of TEAKWOOD. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1812Z/28).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

REPULSE. (contd).	Your 1112B/28. No news of TEAKWOOD beyond 1739Q/24 from C. in C.A.W.I. ROYALITE had sailed for Halifax prior to receipt of your message. ROYALITE emptied by REPULSE. No stock of Admiralty fuel here until TEAKWOOD arrives. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.,1907Z/28 to Admty.) Have 50% oil remaining. No oil here and no certain prospect. Am proceeding now to Halifax to fuel. E.T.A. 0200B/30. This will inevitably make REPULSE about 30 hours late at junction in your 1333B/28. If oiler arrived here in next 12 hours intend to return to fuel Conception Bay. (REPULSE 1935Z/28 to Admty.) Cancelled see 0700Z/29.
SOUTHERN PRINCE. BRITANNIC. RAMILLIES.	Your 1330Z/27. From important information SOUTHERN PRINCE should be in company with BRITANNIC and both should be following route given in my 1737P/22 at a S. of A. of 13 knots. If not met, return to Halifax following this route in vicinity estimated position these ships. (R.A.3, 1021P/28 to RAMILLIES).
C. in C. to visit Halifax.	In view of your 1939B/23. Intend to transfer my flag to PRINCE DAVID p.m./29 and carry out following programme. Leave Bermuda 29/5 St. Johns N.F. 1/6 3/6, Halifax 4/6 9/6, Bermuda 11/6. Have consulted C.N.S. Canada and intend to visit him at Ottawa from Halifax. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1021Q/28 to Admty).
Dakar Intelligence.	Following from Navy Dept. From U.S. Consul Dakar 23/5. Two large submarines have arrived making a total of ten submarines in port. Other intelligence. (N.A. Washington 1121/28 to Admty.)

/Air.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

Air Searches.	My 02332/27. 193 parallel track search completed. Visibility good to within 80 miles of Greenland then zero. Nothing reported. (b) Sector search completed. Visibility first half poor outer half maximum. Sighted one freighter, (details) 053° 48' N 45° 52' W. course 210° at 1136 G.M.T. 5 Digby aircraft will search area airport to 057° 12' N. 046° 00' W. to 047° 50' N. 040° 36' W. to airport 28/5. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1313Z/28 to Admty.). My 1313Z/28 Sighting 1005Z/28 freighter HANZ GEORGE Danish Flag 050° 52' N. 05°(?50°) 23' W. course 360° 11 knots. At 1450 G.M.T. American Freighter 4000 tons, 054° 53' N. 049° 50' W. course 250° 12 knots. Search only half completed owing to weather. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2127Z/28 to Admty.).
CHURCHILL. BURNHAM.	Amend my 1855B/27 to read "To escort HX 130" (C. in C. W.A., 1522B/28 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F).
THUNDERBOLT.	Leave patrol now and return to Halifax through 041° 35' N. 051° 40' W. and 042° 35' N. 060° 00' W. T.B.R. arranged 20 miles either side of your route. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1533P/28 to THUNDERBOLT).
Seizure of WINNIPEG (Vichy).	Following from Navy Dept. From U.S. Naval Observer Martinique 27/5. Re seizure of WINNIPEG, Adm. Robert states he has no intention of taking any retaliatory action and again voices his adherence to all previous agreements. He objects to violation of neutrality zone and considers that U.S. should intervene in this instance since he has held steadfastly to his engagements. (N.A. Washington 1621/28 to Admty.)

/Patrol.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

Patrol areas.	My 1701B/28.* Request report when LADY SOMERS will be sailed. Cancel F.O.C.N.P. 1246B/18. LADY SOMERS should be sailed for A.1. (D.O.D. (F) 1720B/28 to B.S.3). * Alteration of patrol areas.
Action Survivors.	Your 1438B/28. (re sighting of lights possibly from boats containing survivors of recent operations) Regret no action taken as I had no ship I was able to divert. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1736B/28 to Admty.)
PRINZ EUGEN. H.X. Convoys.	Admty. appreciation is that PRINZ EUGEN will operate on normal H.X. convoy route in immediate future. REPULSE has orders to afford protection to HX. 129. SUFFOLK, as soon as she has completed her present operation, is proceeding to Concepcion Bay for fuel and will then operate on H.X. convoy route. U.S.A. have been asked to provide air and surface reconnaissance in this area. Requested you will assist with air R/C, consulting and co-ordinating with U.S. Authorities as necessary. (V.C.N.S. 1913B/28 to C.N.S. Ottawa).
BRITANNIC.	My 1913B/28. Request you will if possible cover BRITANNIC with air R/C. (D.O.D.(H) 1943B/28 to C.N.S. Ottawa).
Air Reconnaissance.	Admty 1913B/28. R.C.A.F. will provide as much air R/C as possible but co-ordination with U.S. aircraft is difficult as no common codes or cyphers are held at present nor are R.C.A.F. advised of projected movements of U.S. aircraft. Situation is similar to the naval difficulties referred to in my 1044Z/15 and your reply 1126B/19. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2036Z/28 to Admty.).

/Newfoundland.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

Newfoundland Force.	A.M. 1939B/23. The escort forces based on St. John's N.F. will be known as the Newfoundland Force. C. in C.W.A. is authorised to communicate direct with C.C. this force. (V.C.N.S. 2322B/28 to C. in C.W.A. C.N.S. Ottawa, etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 28.5.41.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported. Contd.

0430. U/Boat reported in 035° 30' N., 010° 16' W., 0430, course E., 12 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1119B/28, to oiler CAIRNDALE.)

0756. By D/F at 0756Z/28 enemy U/Boat was within 40 miles of 48° 30' N., 14° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1140B/28.)

0920. By D/F at 0920 G.M.T. Italian U-Boat in 46° N., 13° W. Unreliable fix. Homeward bound. (?D.D.I.C., 1206B/28.)
Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1503B/28.)

1850. Sighted U/B on surface in 36° 58' N.,10° 48' W., at 1850z/28.
(SEVERN, 1850 z/28th May, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A., 2340A/28, to SCARBOROUGH.)

0934. Confirming telephone message. At 0934
1147. G.M.T. U/B in vicinity of 48° N., 16° W.
At 1147 G.M.T. U/B in vicinity of 48° N., 16° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1941B/28, to H.Q.C.C.)

2047. D/F Bearing of Italian S/M at 2047 270°
Class 2 from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2301/28, to N.A. Stn.)

S/m's Attacked.

By VERBENA. Preliminary investigation indicates VERBENA
21/5. destroyed U Boat of BATIRAY Class attacked on 21/5 in 058° 55' N., 039° 30' W. U Boat appeared to have thorough knowledge of anti-asdic tactics.
(Cdr. D.12, 2116Z/28, to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRITISH GRENADIER. (torpedoed 22/5.)	Now presumed sunk. All crew safe. (D.S.631, 28/5.)
BRITISH SECURITY. (torpedoed 20/5.)	NORTHERN WAVE reports BRITISH SECURITY in 057° 14' N., 039° 23' W., at 2100 G.M.T./23. Badly holed and superstructure burnt out but considered good chance of salvage. Was drifting eastwards at 1 knot. Trawler TENACITY escorted by BUTTERMERE at 0100Z/28. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1024/28, to Admty., etc.)
RODNEY STAR (torpedoed 16/5.)	Following from War Dept., From Dakar 22/5. 18 of crew of ? RODNEY STAR torpedoed en route Santos to Freetown 16/5 have been landed Dakar. (N.A. Washington, 1634/28, to Admty.)
JONATHAN HOLT. (torpedoed 24/2.)	Your 1403/25/2. On return to Harbour report if anything further is known regarding identity of unknown ship and Number of Survivors rescued by her from JONATHAN HOLT. (C. in C. W.A., 1701B/28, to PETUNIA.)

S/M's Reported.

0845.	Coastguard at Tol Peden reports submarine on surface bearing 225° six miles course 302° at 0845. (C. in C. Plymouth 0920/28, to CUTTY SARK.)
1200/27.	Grade B.2 Fishing boat reports having sighted about noon/27 submarine on surface nationality unknown no markings in 32° 21' N., 16° 27' W., proceeding on an easterly course. (Consul, Madeira, 1017/28, to Admty.) (F.O.C.N.A., 1525A/28.)

/0430.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Home Fleet.	C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE with 7 destroyers arrived at Aultbea at 1233B today for fuel. C.S. 1. in NORFOLK, with RODNEY and 4 destroyers arrived in the Clyde at 0345B. VICTORIOUS arrived at the Clyde at 1327.
C.W. 36 shelled.	Shortly after midnight last night an enemy battery, probably Wissant fired about 10 rounds at C.W. 36 when estimated to be off Folkestone. No damage or casualties occurred.
S.O.S. from EMPIRE STORM.	Cutter NORTHLAND at 2203 G.M.T. intercepted S.O.S. from S.S. EMPIRE STORM in 55° N. 39° 50' W; particulars uncertain.
M.T.B. operation.	In low visibility M.T.B's 69, 71, 72 and 5 were despatched from Dover today to attack enemy shipping located off Gris Nez. M.T.Bs 69 (S.O) broke down en route. The remainder attacked a large trawler accompanied by an R-boat. The only result of the action was that the trawler captured 3 men of M.T.B 72 who abandoned ship thinking the M.T.B had been mined.
Search for enemy supply ship.	2nd C.S. and SUFFOLK if fuel permits are to search an area in the North Atlantic for a possible enemy supply ship.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

3 out of 14 aircraft of Bomber Command detailed to attack TIRPITZ at Kiel dropped bombswhere they believed Kiel to be. Weather Was very bad.

Patrols were flown off Brest throughout last night, including a special cross over patrol 240 miles west of Ushant.

Enemy Air Operations.

Two bombs which did not explode were dropped at 0810 near Finnish tanker JOSEFINA THORDEN which was anchored off the Faroes after bomb damage earlier in the month.

Trawler PLETHOS was bombed at 0720 255 miles S.S.E. of Iceland (c) and had casualties but no damage.

Convoy C.W. 36 was bombed at 0315 S.W. of Dungeness. No damage or casualties occurred.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Aircraft last night laid mines off Brest, St. Nazaire, Boulogne and La Pallice.

There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary last night; mines were seen to drop and channel to Ridham Dock was closed. A.A. ships will be stationed in the Thames Estuary from p.m/30 until further notice.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool today.

The Humber was closed from 0248B to 1107B. Milford Haven was closed at 0445B and reopened with local restrictions at 1130.

North Atlantic.

Force H. returned to Gibraltar this evening.

South Atlantic.

Search for enemy oiler. EAGLE and DUNEDIN are to carry out an air search near 28° N. 34° 40' W. where there is information that an oiler is to await PRINZ EUGEN from p.m./2/6 onwards. SURCOUF, on patrol in the Atlantic has been ordered to patrol between 33° 54' N. 36° 0' W and 33° 54' N. 38° 0' W.

Search for raider CUMBERLAND en route to Freetown is to investigate a position 24° 56' S. 28° 12' W. where it is reported that a German A.M.C. is awaiting the arrival of S.S. HERMES from Rio de Janeiro.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Western Desert.	Tobruk was bombed 4 times today, the first raid being made by 50 JU. 87's escorted by fighters. A.A. fire destroyed 4 enemy aircraft.
Reinforcements.	Whalers KOS 2, KOS 3, KOS 7, KOS 8, and KOS 9 are to proceed to the Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

Enemy strength.	C. in C.M.E. reports that up to 30,000 German troops have probably been landed in Crete, of which 90% were air borne, including infantry, guns, mortars and motor cycles. There is an unconfirmed report that German tanks have now been landed by sea. The enemy losses in specialist personnel and in aircraft have been heavy. Further enemy air borne reinforcements reached Crete today and heavy dive bombing attacks continued throughout the day. In the evening a heavy dive bombing attack was made on Sphakia.
Italian force landed.	An Italian seaborne force is reported to have landed at the east end of the island today.
Air Operations.	8 Wellingtons last night bombed Scarpanto Aerodrome from which German and Italian aircraft are operating against Crete.
IMPERIAL sunk. HEREWARD. DIDO ORION damaged.	IMPERIAL was disabled last night in operations north of Crete, and was sunk by our own forces. HEREWARD was hit at 0650, DIDO was badly hit at 0818, ORION was twice hit during the forenoon. The bombing of our ships continued during the afternoon. DECOY was damaged.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. TABARISTAN is reported torpedoed at 2040 G.M.T. in 6° 39' N. 15° 9' W.

MOST SECRET.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Home Fleet.	C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE with 7 destroyers arrived at Aultbea at 1233B today for fuel. C.S. 1. in NORFOLK, with RODNEY and 4 destroyers arrived in the Clyde at 0345B. VICTORIOUS arrived at the Clyde at 1327.
C.W. 36 shelled.	Shortly after midnight last night an enemy battery, probably Wissant fired about 10 rounds at C.W. 36 when estimated to be off Folkestone. No damage or casualties occurred.
S.O.S. from EMPIRE STORM.	Cutter NORTHLAND at 2203 G.M.T. intercepted S.O.S. from S.S. EMPIRE STORM in 55° N. 39° 50' W; particulars uncertain.
M.T.B. operation.	In low visibility M.T.B's 69, 71, 72 and 5 were despatched from Dover today to attack enemy shipping located off Gris Nez. M.T.Bs 69 (S.O) broke down en route. The remainder attacked a large trawler accompanied by an R-boat. The only result of the action was that the trawler captured 3 men of M.T.B 72 who abandoned ship thinking the M.T.B had been mined.
Search for enemy supply ship.	2nd C.S. and SUFFOLK if fuel permits are to search an area in the North Atlantic for a possible enemy supply ship.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

3 out of 14 aircraft of Bomber Command detailed to attack TIRPITZ at Kiel dropped bombswhere they believed Kiel to be. Weather Was very bad.

Patrols were flown off Brest throughout last night, including a special cross over patrol 240 miles west of Ushant.

Enemy Air Operations.

Two bombs which did not explode were dropped at 0810 near Finnish tanker JOSEFINA THORDEN which was anchored off the Faroes after bomb damage earlier in the month.

Trawler PLETHOS was bombed at 0720 255 miles S.S.E. of Iceland (c) and had casualties but no damage.

Convoy C.W. 36 was bombed at 0315 S.W. of Dungeness. No damage or casualties occurred.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Aircraft last night laid mines off Brest, St. Nazaire, Boulogne and La Pallice.

There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary last night; mines were seen to drop and channel to Ridham Dock was closed. A.A. ships will be stationed in the Thames Estuary from p.m/30 until further notice.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool today.

The Humber was closed from 0248B to 1107B. Milford Haven was closed at 0445B and reopened with local restrictions at 1130.

North Atlantic.

Force H. returned to Gibraltar this evening.

South Atlantic.

Search for enemy oiler.

EAGLE and DUNEDIN are to carry out an air search near 28° N. 34° 40' W. where there is information that an oiler is to await PRINZ EUGEN from p.m./2/6 onwards. SURCOUF, on patrol in the Atlantic has been ordered to patrol between 33° 54' N. 36° 0' W and 33° 54' N. 38° 0' W.

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ST. ALBANS.

As ST. ALBANS has carried out very few working up practices, suggest she should return to Scapa subject to C. in C. W.A.'s approval. (R.A.D. 0200B/29).

TRINIDAD.

My 1039/1. Transfer of TRINIDAD from Devonport to Rosyth is to be deferred. (D. of D. Bath 1405B/29).

CLEVELAND CHannel Convoy escorts.

Since the withdrawal of the 3 'Vee' class destroyers from Portsmouth, forces at disposal of C. in C. Portsmouth have been hardly adequate to meet his commitments.
2. It is intended that CLEVELAND should rejoin his Command as soon as reinforcements have arrived at Plymouth about end of June.
3. In the meantime request that C. in C. Nore will assist C. in C. Portsmouth in meeting the escort requirements for the Channel convoy. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1616B/29 to C. in C. Nore, Portsmouth.)

Five Norwegian M/S Whalers for Mediterranean.

My 1724B/19. Request you will sail LL whalers of Group 157 consisting of GOS 2 GOS 3 KOS 7 KOS 8 and KOS 9 for the Mediterranean via the Cape as they become available. Ships may be sailed in pairs but should not proceed singly.
2. The endurance of these whalers is estimated to be 1900 miles at 10 knots. Request you will report the route adopted.
3. C's. in C. concerned requested to arrange onward route from Freetown.
(D.O.D. H. 1703B/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Depot ship at Hvalfiord.

Recent events have demonstrated urgent necessity for a depot ship at Hvalfiord. Understand presnet intention is to send the GREENWICH there but recommend the HECLA be sent instead, her place at Greenock being taken by the GREENWICH. Reliance on cruisers and capital ships to assist in re-victualling H.F. destroyers and convoy escort groups reduces the bigger ships' endurance while base facilities at Hvalfiord are far inferior to those at Greenock.
(C. in C. H.F., 1105B/29 to Admty).

Movements.

BANDIT
MARAUDER.

BANDIT and MARAUDER are to remain in Faeroes at half an hours notice for sea. They are to be kept complete with fuel and provisions.
(A.C.O.S. 1031/29 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

TRINIDAD.

My 1039/1, transfer from Devonport to Rosyth is to be deferred.
(D. of D. Bath, 1405B/29).

DORSETSHIRE.

DORSETSHIRE is to arrive Pierheads Tyne not later than 2230/29. If unable to do this enter Rosyth. Signal intentions and E.T.A.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1614/29 to DORSETSHIRE).

CALIFORNIA.

There is a considerable number of service personnel awaiting passage to Halifax. Suggest that on leaving Clyde CALIFORNIA should proceed direct to Halifax instead of carrying out a curtailed patrol, if this will not interfere with your programme of patrols.
2. Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1955B/29 to F.O.C.N.P.)

ICARUS
ANTELOPE
ACTIVE.

Sail for Scapa a.m./30.
(R.A.D., 2350B/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK.

Arrived Clyde 0255 F.O.C. 1st C.S. NORFOLK, RODNEY, MAORI, SIKH, LEGION, COLUMBIA.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0345B/29).
Arrival of C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V, SOMALI, ESKIMO, PUNJABI, COSSACK, JUPITER, NESTOR, LANCE in company.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea., 1233B/29).
Fuelled and sailed INGLEFIELD, LANCE, LEGION, SOMALI, PUNJABI, NESTOR, 1200/28th. ESKIMO 1215/28th.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1315B/29).
My 1712 on time. Amended list of German prisoners four officers 81 men, includes four cot cases. Request you will arrange removal of prisoners on arrival.
(DORSETSHIRE 2030B/29 to N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne).
Request report by signal whether interference to R.D.F. was experienced during action with BISMARCK and if so what type of sets were involved.
2. Action with SUFFOLK will be taken later.
(D.S.D. 2216B/29 to C. in C. H.F., C.S.1).

Report by SUFFOLK on the action.

SUFFOLK 2221/29. See Lion Copy.

DORSETSHIRE arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Tyne 2237/29).

M.L. patrol,.

Intend M.L.'s 122, 233 and 213 to leave Portland at 2230/29 and carry out anti-E boat patrol to southward of convoy route between 3° W and 180 Portland Bill 5 miles to cover passage of vessels vide N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 1853/28. (Passage of LUXOR & ship No. 3000 escorted by H.M.S. BLENCATHRA.)
M.L's return to Weymouth after S C O T O L. D. and E Patrols will not be established.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1147/29).

/C.W. 36.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

C.W. 36 shelled and bombed.

Between 0018 and 0030 enemy battery probably WISSANT fired about ten rounds at C.W. 36 when estimated position off Folkestone. At 0315 unknown number of bombs dropped in aircraft attack. No damage or casualties reported.
(V.A. Dover, 1211B/29) See also Enemy Air Operations.

M.T.B. Operation.

In low visibility at 0850/29 M.T.B.'s 69. 71. 72 and 5 were despatched to attack enemy shipping located off Gris Nez. M.T.B. 69. with S.O. on board broke down en route and attack was made by remaining 3 boats on a large trawler accompanied by an R-Boat. 4 Torpedoes fired without result. M.T.B. 72 engines were temporarily put out of action when her torpedo seems to have exploded on the bottom and C.O. thinking he had been mined prepared to scuttle his boat. Later engines were got going but meanwhile 3 seamen had abandoned ship in Carley float. Owing to approach and attack by trawler M.T.B. 72 manoeuvred to fire second torpedo which missed and the Carley float with the 3 men were captured by the trawler.
A full enquiry will be held as soon as possible.
(V.A. Dover 1314B/29).

Search for Supply Ship.

If sufficient fuel remains you should proceed to search an area bounded by:-
Long. 46° - 48° W.
Lat. 57° - 59° N.
for enemy supply ship. After searching this area proceed to Concepcion Bay.
2. If fuel does not permit this course of action you should proceed now at best speed to Concepcion Bay. The 2nd C.B. (AURORA and ARETHUSA) is proceeding from Iceland to undertake the above duty if necessary.
3. You should report by wireless, therefore, when approaching Concepcion Bay, action taken.
4. There are strong indications that submarines may by in the vicinity.
(V.C.N.S. 1947/B/29 to SUFFOLK).

/Proceed as soon as.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for Supply ship. (contd).

Proceed as soon as possible with the 2nd C.S. to search an area bounded by:
Long. 46° - 48° W.
Lat. 57° - 59° N.
for possible enemy supply ship.
2. SUFFOLK has similar orders, but it is doubtful whether her fuel will permit her to undertake the operation.
3. There are strong indications that submarines may be operating near the area.
(V.C.N.S. 1946B/29 to R.A. 2nd C.S.)

Orders to SEALION.

Proceed to 046° 56' N 003° 08' W and in that position keep special sharp look out to South westward from 0400 onward.
Reference intelligence summary part 3 section 13. (F.O.(S) 2029B/29 to SEALION).
Resume normal patrol at 0800B/30th.
(F.O.S. 2204B/29 to STURGEON, SEALION).
My 2029B/29. If you cannot get there till 0600B/30 it is still worth a try. Do not approach within 20 miles of STURGEON's position as given in my 2203B 29th.
(F.O.S. 2234B/29 to SEALION).

Orders to STURGEON.

My 2029B to SEALION. If you can get there by 0200B/30 go to 046° 44' N, 003° 48' W and keep very sharp look out to South Westward.
(F.O.(S) 2203B/29 to STURGEON).

U.S.A. Operations.

4 American P.B.Y's carrying out R/C of Scoresby Fiord and King Oscar Fiord areas about 0600 tomorrow May 31. U.S. Destroyer BROOME leaves 2000 for W/T communication a position due North of North Cape as far ice permits. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1303/29 (sic) to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Operations.

Escort for Home Fleet.

Owing to weather conditions it is unlikely that air escort can be provided between first daylight and arrival at Aultbea.
(C. in C. W.A. 0127B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)
730. Your 1547B/29. Expect A/S Air escort of one Hudson from 15 Group from 0600B/30.
(C. in C. W.A., 1252B/30 to C. in C. H.F.)
KING GEORGE V and 9 Destroyers are remaining in Loch Ewe owing to visibility conditions in Pentland Firth, and will sail 0600B tomorrow. Speed of advance 20 knots. Request fighter protection while at Loch Ewe and on passage. Request A/S air escort on passage code word SHEIK.
(C. in C. H.F., 1547B/29).

Fighter protection for DORSETSHIRE.

Your 2121/28 and my 0150B/29. Fighter protection has been asked for from daylight/29 till arrival assuming your speed 25 knots. Code word RIVET. Report if speed is not correct.
(D.O.D. (H) 0151B/29 to DORSETSHIRE).

R/C's

Owing to weather conditions it is extremely improbable that any reconnaissances by 18 Group A/C will be possible today Thursday
(C. in C. Rosyth 1208/29 to C. in C. H.F. etc)

My 1208/39. S T A N D now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1500/29).

Kiel attacked.

Night 28/29 May.
Primary target was TIRPITZ at Kiel. 14 Whitleys were detailed but owing to 10/10 cloud, severe icing and electric storms, impossible to identify. Three aircraft attacked probably Kiel and dropped four tons of bombs.
(H.Q.B.C., 1620/29).

Survivors.

2010 48° 00' N 06° 00' W Blenheim sighted 40 or more various sizes of fishing boats passengers being transferred from sailing boats to motor boats. A/C sighted a trail of oil shape of letter U just off Lundy Isle fishing vessels hoisted French Flags and Yellow ensign.
(H.Q. 19 Group 2255/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Coastal Convoy.	Enemy bombing convoy BACON. Position 50° 50' N 0° 53' E. (FERNIE. 0315/29).
A/C shot down by TARTAR.	C. in C. W.A. 2227B/28. It is confirmed TARTAR brought one H.E. 3 Heinkel dived in flames at 1025. Crew were not seen to bale out. (TARTAR 0755B/29).
JOSEFINA THORDEN.	My 1255 28 (Tanker & escort for Kirkwall) and my 1750 28. (Recommendation that ship remains where she is until Salvage expert takes charge). At 0810/29 one Heinkel aircraft dropped two bombs near Finnish Tanker which did not explode. No other attack reported. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1041B/29).
Met. flight.	Enemy Aircraft has made Meteorological flight from Trondheim this morning in a North westerly direction extending to 69° N 05° W. (D.D.I.C. 1123B/29 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S. F.O.I.C. Iceland (C)).
A/A ships in Thames.	A/A ships will be stationed in Thames Estuary from p.m./30 until further notice. Fire will be opened on any aircraft flying below 3,000 feet unless recognised as friendly. (C. in C. Nore 1246B/29 to H.Q.F.C.)
A/C shot down by CHILTERN.	R.N.O. Penzance reports:- Report of Skipper Drake H.M.T. CHILTERN, at 2325/28 while on patrol 1-1/4 miles E. of Lamorna cove sighted astern coming from N.one low flying plane,. Opened fire with two Hotchkiss that would bear at which plane dipped nearly hitting water, on attempting to rise again was hit with one round of 12 pounder on which plane dived into the sea in search-light, and saw what appeared to be two heads in the water but on nearing them they disappeared. Picked up German rubber dinghy with wireless set intact. (C. in C. Plymouth 1326/29).

/MASHONA.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

MASHONA. Arrived TARTAR with survivors from MASHONA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1532B/29).

C.W. 36. C.W.36. six two-gun salvoes, spread for range on a line between convoy and sweepers, were fired from Frenchcoast between 0015 and 0030. 2. At 0315 a single aircraft dropped two sticks of three and nine small bombs respectively, about half a mile to starboard of convoy, S.W. of Dungeness. No damage or casualties from either shelling or bombing. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1923B/29).

Mining.

Humber. Humber is closed to navigation. Enemy mine-laying. Anticipate opening 1200/29. (F.O. Yarmouth 0248B/29).
Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1107B/29).

Milford Haven. Port is closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0445B/29).
Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1130B/29).

B.S.63 B.S.63 escort will arrive Humber 30/5. Operation to be carried out on 31/5 if practicable. (C. in C. Nore, 1040B/29 to TEVIOT BANK).
One destroyer from those detailed for convoy cover tonight is to proceed to Humber on conclusion of convoy duties. She will be required to act as escort for B.S.63. She should proceed as far as outer Dowsing in company with E.C.26. Report name of destroyer detailed. (C. in C. Nore 1112B/29 to D.21.)
Operation B.S.63. Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 0800/31. Laying will begin at 1315. Return North of B.S.35 and West of B.S.49 to 62 D Buoy. (TEVIOT BANK 1141B/29).

Sheerness.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Sheerness. One S.A. mine detonated 1528/28 as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1040 /29) (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1020/1/6).

B.S.57 To take place night of 1/2 June.
Para one to five as in my 2304B/20.
6. Force to sail so as to take departure from position A at 2315/1.
7. Minesweepers to sweep ahead of PLOVER from position A until 0500 2nd.
S.O. 4 M.S. to be in general charge of the operation PLOVER being responsible for navigation.
10. Operation is to be cancelled if mines are known to be cut or if for any other reason S.O. considers it necessary.
(C. in C. Nore 1340B/29).

Liverpool. Mine detonated 1150/29. 080° Bar L.V. 1.45 miles probably laid last night.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1638B/29).

Thames Estuary. There was considerable enemy activity over the Thames Estuary during the night of 28th/29th May. Parachute mines have been seen to drop as follows.
(X.D.O. Sheerness, 1730/29).

Enemy Intelligence.

Bordeaux. Bordeaux now present 19 submarines in wet docks being increased of one since 27/5
(P.R.U., Benson 1355/29).

Brest. Brest 1915/29 Visual R/C shows both Battle-cruisers in usual berths.
For reasons of security the results of this daily R/C will not in future be signalled unless a change has occurred.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2028B/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

S.S. EROS
Bombed 3/11/40.

R/V with S.S. EROS in tow of tugs and provide escort to Tyne Pier Heads.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1203/29 to JAN VAN BRAKEL).

S.S. EMPIRE PELICAN.

S.S. EMPIRE PELICAN stranded Lambs Head, Stronsay. Salvage vessel INFATIGABLE and Fleet Tug BUCCANEER with Chief Salvage Officer have been sent.
(A.C.O.S. 1308B/29 to Admty).
EMPIRE PELICAN now at Kirkwall, has only tank damage, no water in holds, engineroom or boiler room, BERTHA is in attendance BUCANEER and INFATIGABLE returning to Scapa.
(C.S.V.O. Lyness. 1945/29).

PRINCE OF WALES.

Anticipate that repairs will exceed three weeks. Reference C.A.F.O. No. 192/41, main and secondary armament magazines are to be cleared and ship 90 per cent defuelled, both of which will be carried out in Basin. If ship arrives in time tomorrow Friday, 30th anchor B six berth and proceed to anchorage to Basin commencing 1730. De oiling to be commenced at anchorage if possible. Report expected time of arrival May Island and your estimated draught fore and aft on arrival.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1850/29).

CITY OF BOMBAY.

Harwich 29/5 departure rescue tug ST. MELLONS to assistance of "CITY OF BOMBAY".
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2252B/29).

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.8X.
NORFOLK.

My 1908B/27. NORFOLK is required to provide additional escort for Convoy W.S.8 X. to vicinity of Freetown. Convoy will sail on 31/5. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1235B/29 to NORFOLK).

/RODNEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (contd).

RODNEY
WINDSOR
CASTLE.

My 1735B/24. Cancel para 4. WINDSOR CASTLE will not proceed with W.S.9 A. RODNEY will be required to provide escort for WINDSOR CASTLE to Halifax before proceeding to U.S.A. She will leave Clyde on 3/6.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1250B/29 to RODNEY, etc).

W.S.9 A.

My 1235B/19 and 1735/24.
Request name of cruiser detailed for ocean escort, and sail her to arrive at Clyde for convoy conference a.m./3. Destroyers from Home Fleet mentioned in para. 6 of my 1235B/19 will not be required. Destroyers are being provided from W.A. and 4th D.F.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1259B/29 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 1235B/19 and 1735B/24. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to provide 4 Destroyers of 4th D.F. as additional escort for W.S.9 A. leaving Clyde 3/6. Subsequent movements of 4th D.F. will be decided after proposals in C. in C. Plymouth's 2201/28 have been referred to C. in C. H:F.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1305B/29 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth).

Use of D.C.'s by M/V's.

A.M. 2109B/28. Consider it undesirable for Merchant Ships in an escorted convoy to drop depth charges after a U boat attack by night unless U boat has been seen to dive close to a ship. Instructions in a.m. 1348/30 should prevent depth charges being dropped in these circumstances but ambiguity would be avoided if words "or night" were deleted from para. 3 (N) of a.m. 2109B/29.
(C. in C. W.A. 1903B/29 to Admty).

Vesca Messages.

From 1/6 Admiralty will initiate all outward Vesca messages and Ministry of War Transport Intelligence Branch (Fairmiss) will discontinue sending outward Vescas altogether. Ministry's advice to their representatvies abroad will be based on Admiralty estimates.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2117B/29 to D.N.I., Melbourne, 2121B/29, to C. in C. S.A. 2122B/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc).

Fish Carriers.

Policy as regards fishcarriers sailing between Iceland and U.K. is as follows.
(D.T.D. 2123B/29 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

TRUANT.	Admty. 2345B/27. I estimate that TRUANT has sufficient fuel to remain on patrol for about 23 days and her time at sea including passage will thus amount to about 37 days. TRUANT has just completed a series of arduous patrols in Mediterranean and unless urgency of her present duties requires her to remain on patrol to the limit of her fuel, I suggest that 30 days at sea should be regarded as a maximum. (F.O.S.1058B/29 to Admty.)
Blenheims.	X.118. My 1610/27. Owing to weather 10 Blenheims not expected to leave U.K. until P.M.30/5. 200 Group please pass to S.O. Force H. (Air Ministry 1415/29)
OSSAG (German tanker)	Departure Cartagena P.M./28. (F.O.C.N.A. 2354A/29 to CLYDE)

South Atlantic.

Enemy Raider.	Your 1331N/28, not to Admiralty. Request bearings at 2051Z/27.5.41. (D.D.I.C. 0029B/29 to C. in C.S.A.) Your 0029B/29, bearing 250° of unidentified message reported from Simonstown taken in conjunction with bearings from Freetown and Ascension on message reported in my 1617/26/5. (C. in C.S.A., 1145N/29 to Admty.)
LATONA.	If on receipt of this signal you have sufficient fuel to reach St. Helena, proceed round the Cape. If not return to Freetown first to fuel. Report your intentions. (1st S.L.0032B/29 to LATONA)

/NELSON, LONDON, S.L.75 .

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NELSON
LONDON
S.L.75.

NELSON is to proceed to join S.L.75 at 18 knots, or at a higher speed if this will leave sufficient fuel to remain with Convoy until 46° N. arriving at Scapa with 15% remaining. LONDON is to leave S.L.75 now and proceed to Bathurst to fuel and join S.L. 76 as soon after it passes Bathurst as practicable. NELSON is to report her intentions now and LONDON is to report position of convoy 24 hours after leaving it. (1st S.L. 0043B/29 to NELSON, LONDON)
Cancel my 0159. Your 0043B/29. Estimate to join S.L.75 on 1/6 and leave it on 6/6. Expect then to have fuel left for 3 to 4 days steaming at 18 knots and 15% left on arrival. (NELSON, 0336Z/29 to Admty.)
A.T. 0043B/29 para. 2. LONDON is to proceed at best speed to Bathurst. LONDON to report earliest time she can leave Bathurst after completing with fuel. (V.C.N.S., 2252B/29 to C. in C.S.A.)
Admty. 2252B/29. Proceed Bathurst at best speed report E.T.A. (C. in C.S.A., 2229N/29 to LONDON)

DUNEDIN.

Proceed to Bathurst at best speed and complete with fuel on arrival. (C.in C.S.A. 0127N/29. to DUNEDIN)
My 0127/29 report E.T.A. Bathurst.
(C.in C.S.A., 0215N/29 to DUNEDIN)

CITY OF DURBAN.

Your 0056/19/5 and my 1923/19. Intend to sail CITY OF DURBAN 30/5 to patrol area G33 (C) and (D), H33 (A) and (B) as possible fuelling or supply area for U-boats. If ship is to stay in Freetown area request mails be diverted there. (C. in C.S.A. 0141N/29 to Admty.)

/Troop Transports ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

Troop Transports. Your 1745/28. EMPRESS OF ASIA and THYSVILLE will not be ready of leave Capetown before 31/5 or 1/6. PRETORIA CASTLE arrived Durban 28/5 and was ordered prior to receipt of your 1755/28 to escort CAMERONIA from East London to Capetown. PRETORIA CASTLE would subsequently return to Durban escorting EMPRESS OF ASIA and THYSVILLE. CAMERONIA will embark further personnel at Capetown and sail for Freetown escored by PRETORIA CASTLE when latter return to Capetown. CARNARVON CASTLE and CILICIA sailed from Capetown 28/5 for patrol. My 1603/28 and 2115/28 refer. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0856Z/29 to C.in C.S.A)

KING EDWARD. Your 1947/27 (name of ship reported overdue) British ship KING EDWARD. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1050B/29 to Admty.)

DALGOMA "Q" Report. Following has been read:- QQQQ DALGOMA 0130 N. 1136 W. Suspicious. (?1200/29) Tanker out of sight proceeding my P.C. and S. 2° N. 12° W. 315° 7 knots. (DALGOMA, 1340/29 to G.B.M.S.) Tanker ESTURIA position 1300 hours G.M.T. 001° 45' N. 011° 48' W. Assume message made by DALGOMA refers to me. (ESTURIA, 1525 G.M.T./29)

BERGENSFJORD. D.S.T's 0231B/26. To be diverted to Victoria, Nigeria, to embark one battalion native troops thence Lagos to embark second battalion and bring both to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A. 1331N/29 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Enemy A.M.C. HERMES. B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1917/28. CUMBERLAND is investigating this position en route to Freetown. ALCANTARA watch German ship HERMES. NEWCASTLE will cover Southern sector if available for search. (R.A.S.A.D. 1508Z/29 to ALCANTARA)

/VULCAN, ALBERT LE BORGNE ..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

VULCAIN. ALBERT LE BORGNE.	Overdue shipping. VULCAIN due Freetown 26/5 from Clyde 2/5, and ALBERT LE BORGNE due Bathurst 25/5 from Clyde 6/5 have not arrived. (S.O.I Freetown, 1814N/29 to Admty.)
U-Boats.	Your 1315N/26. Every effort is made to keep you informed of all submarines estimated to be operating in your area. Admty. receive certain information which for reasons of security cannot be transmitte in detail, but daily estimate of U-Boat dispositions is the best estimate available in Admty. from all sources. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1949B/29 to C. in C.S.A.)
BULOLO.	On meeting local escort you are to remain with the convoy, as no other escort is available for you. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1954B/29 to BULOLO)
Oil fuel at Montevideo.	Future outlook oil fuel position Montevideo uncertain owing to tanker situation. H.M. ships may not be able to obtain supplies here. Further information later. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 2253Z/29/5 to N.S.O.(I) Freetown)
EAGLE VELOX.	Departures 1700N/29/5. EAGLE and VELOX in accordance with your 2329B/28/5. VELOX remaining in company to limit of endurance. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2327N/29 to Admty.)
PRIWALL (German)	Sailing vessel, 3185 tons at Valparaiso, believed to have been turned over to Chilean Govt. (D.S.633, 30/5)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

OSSAG. (German)	Departure evening 28/5 probably for Marseilles. (Cartagena, T.O.O. 1105/29 via M.W.T.)
ELIZABETH HENDRIK FISSER. ACHAIA.	German, are about to be employed transporting ore from Gardia. (D.S.633, 30/5)
HANS ARP. (German)	Arrived at Trieste 24/5, believed with a cargo of 4400 tons Yugoslav bauxite. (D.S.633, 30/5)
Blenheim Striking Force. Malta.	For information A.O.C. Med. informs me that his request for additional Blenheims for attacks on shipping has been approved. These attacks extremely successful and I consider that during the summer Blenheim striking force if maintained at good strength is likely to be more effective than unsupported destroyers. Essential to keep Maryland aircraft up to full strength to provide all round R/C necessary now that enemy convoys are passing both east and west of Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1148B/29 to C. in C. Med.)
Enemy Traffic and Intelligence.	C. in C. Med's 12440/26. Information obtained by TORBAY and TAKU not known here. Latest intelligence is of RORQUAL's patrol along N. coast of Sicily March/April when H.E. indicates heavy traffic between midnight and dawn on route 032° and 075° from position 038°. 16 N. 012° 08' E. but it now seems probable fast convoys proceed

/direct ....

MOST SECRET

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

Enemy Traffic and Intelligence (contd.)	direct from Naples to Marittimo. USK reported intense A/S activity in area N. of Marittimo on 25/4. UNBEATEN blank report for same area 5 days later. RORQUAL's mine fields laid as follows. No (? sailings from) N. of Cape Bon. Sightings E. of Malta indicated south-bound Tripoli convoys pass Messina during afternoon. (V.A. Malta, 1151B/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)
M.W.8.	D. of S.T's 1459/24. Concur in release of CLAN LAMONT, CLAN CHATTON, CLAN CAMPBELL as there is no immediate prospect of running M.W.8. (C. in C.Med., 14090/29 to D. of S.T.)
KRAKOW. CAMPINA. TISZA.	(A) My 1844/21, KRAKOW and my tel. 14/5 to CAMPINA. Vessels passed to Black Sea 29/5 0200 and 0700 respectively . (B) My 1057/27. TISZA arrived Bosphorus 28/5 and will not now proceed to Aegean. (N.S.O.(I) Istanbul 1701/29 to C. in C. Med.)
Suez Canal.	Situation report. 11 M.V's arrived Suez from Canal. 6 arrived Port Said. Congestion at terminal point relieved and numbers transitioning now normal. Not intended to make further reports until situation changes. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 19150/29 to Admty. etc.)

Hungarian S.S. TISZA 960 tons arrived Istanbul 1640/28 bound for Aegean.
1 Roumanian ship sailed from Chanak for Aegean Noon/27. (Capt. (S) 1 22070/29 to PARTHIAN)

/Mining in Gulf of Suez .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

Mining in Gulf of Suez.

C. in C. E.I. 1400Z/21. It is not considered sufficient protection against aircraft mining in Gulf of Suez can be provided by skids.
(2) Propose that when enemy mining starts in Gulf two minesweeping group corvettes fitted for L.L. and S.A. should operate from Suez or Port Tewfik and sweep a channel out to 30 fathoms line.
(3) Until arrival of corvettes from U.K. proposed minesweeper from Meditn. should be held available for this work.
(4) Propose that anchorage at Suez be swept by skids operating in conjunction with a watch organisation. Up to four skids and tower(s) to come from E.I.
(5) Consider that after crossing 30 fathom line ships must keep to deepest water possible and that the danger from aircraft mining must be accepted.
(C. in C. Med. 2013C/29 to Admty.)

TISZA.

Hungarian S.S. TISZA 960 tons arrived at Istanbul 1640/28 bound for Aegean.
One Roumanian ship sailed from Chanak for Aegean noon/27. (Capt.S.1, 2227C/29 to PARTHIAN)

Malta Aviation Spirit Supplies.

Reply to 2339/27 (N.O.I.C. 2115B/29 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

C.S.7. Request maximum fighter protection. (C.S.7, 0605/29 to C. in C. Med.

HEREWARD. bombed. HEREWARD hit. (C.S.7, 0650/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Fighters not assisted (?arrived) my P.C. & S. 237° 35° N., 27° E., 14 152° 21 knots sustained dive bombing worse. (C.S.7, 0731/29 to C. in C. Med.)

DIDO bombed. DIDO badly hit. (C.S.7, 0818/29 to C. in C. Med.)

D.7. O.E.A.B. My position now is 318° 33° N. 27° E. 19 Miles. (Capt. D.7. 0915/29, to C. in C. Med.)

ORION. DIDO. bombed. ORION and DIDO hit. Am unable to get into touch with fighters my P.C. and S. 034° 10' 027° 00' 150° 24 knots. (DIDO, 09370/29, to C. in C. Med.)

C.S.15. One Enemy A/C shadowing 33° 02' N. 26° 19' E. course 312° speed 18. (C.S.15, 1009/29 to Alexandria W/T)

ORION. ORION hit again my P.C. and S. 033° 35' 027° 30' 145° 25 knots. (DIDO, 1115/29 to Alexandria.)

Fighters. Fighter aircraft should be with you as follows, 1515 to 1445, one Beau fighter and three Hurricanes. (C. in C. Med. 12100/29 to C.S.15)
Fighter aircraft should be with you as follows, 1500 to 1500, one Blenheim three Hurricanes. (C. in C. Med., 12120/29 to C.S.7

/Enemy Convoy .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd.)

Enemy Convoy.	P.C. and S. of enemy 1 destroyer 4 merchant vessels 38. 08 N. 17.42 E. 020° 9. (A/C Duty Q. 1420Z/29 to Halfar R.A.F. Stn.)
DIDO bombed.	Have been bombed in position 032° 20' 028° 13'. (DIDO, 1501/29 to C.in C. Med.) My 1501. Conditions better. (DIDO, 1819/29 to C. in C. Med.)
D.10 JAGUAR, DEFENDER.	Take JAGUAR, DEFENDER under your orders. Sail when ready to join C.S.15 as soon after daylight 30th as possible. C.S.15 intends (? to) pass through position 054° 33' N. 024° 28' E. at 0600/30 and position 033° 52' N. 024° 50' E. at 0845/30 thence (?direct to) (?Alexandria) (C. in C. Med. 15130/29 to Capt.D.10)
Fighter Protection.	My 1218C/28 and 1513B/29 Maximum fighter protection is required from daylight/30 for force D, position as in my 1804C/29. Fulmars are to take over patrol within 150 miles of Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 1621/29 to H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 240 Group)
C.S.7.	Six Tomahawks will be over you about 1700. (C. in C. Med., 1646C/29 to C.S.7)
M.L. 1011 sunk, C.B's on board.	Admty. 63A of 10/5 (Schedule of charges consequent on compromise of certain tables.) Whilst on passage from Suda Bay to Spakia, M.L.1011 with emergency communication staff on board was bombed and sunk in 2 fathoms off Palaiochero. Following S.P's. were on board. Two attempts made to recover these books but impossible without suitable equipment. -Request 02353 (xi) be ordered to be brought into force on 1/6. (C. in C. Med. 1933C/29 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LYCABETTUS. — Greek ship "LYCABETTUS" left Oporto (?27th) May believed making for U.S.A. Ship if encountered is to be sent in to British port. (C.in C.S.A. 0949Q/29 to DIOMEDE, PRINCE DAVID, S.S.T.O. Port Said. CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN.)

HECTOR. — My 0736/28. HECTOR is to leave patrol so as to arrive P.M./5/6 at port left on May 26/5. (C. in C.E.I. 1234Z/29 to HECTOR)

B.P.5. ANTENOR. — My 1130/8. After leaving B.P.5 ANTENOR is to proceed to Karachi instead of Bombay. (C. in C.E.I. 1238Z/29 to ANTENOR)

OTRANTO ratings for U.K. — C. in C. Med. has (? 300) ratings for U.K. Only vessel available before W.S.8 if OTRANTO sailing ex Suez 31st but she must not be delayed vide D. of S.T.'s 0446B/14. In view of your 1256/11/4 can they be embarked? (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1251C/29 to C. in C.E.I.) Your 1251/29. Regret no. Escort is necessary from Aden for a ship carrying this number of ratings. No Escort can be made available Aden until about 11/6. Request confirmation that these ratings are those referred to in C. in C. Med. 2240/24. (C.in C. E.I., 1754Z/29 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) See C. in C. Med.0810C/30.

U.S.11 — Possibility of large ships not being able to proceed to Suez. (D. of S.T., 1354B/29 to P.S.T.O. Egypt and India) See Operations Volume. Reply of S.S.T.O. India, 0710Z/3/6. See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Enemy Oiler SURCOUF patrol.

D/F Bearings indicate supply ship, probably oiler, in position 058° 340 miles from centre position of SURCOUF's patrol as ordered in your 22320/24. Request you will direct her to patrol within 30 miles of this new position. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0044B/29 to C. in C.A.W.I.) Cancelled: see 2254B/29. Admty. 0044B/29. Proceed to new position (d) 146° 500 miles from position (c) given in C. in C. W.A.'s 2246B/13. Search for enemy supply ship probably oiler within 30 miles of position (d). (C. in C.A.W.I., 0729Q/29 to SURCOUF) Cancelled, see 2201Q/29. My 0729Q/29. EAGLE and DUNEDIN will be operating from 30/5 in area to which you are now proceeding. C. in C. S.A. pass to EAGLE and DUNEDIN in appropriate cypher. (C. in C.A.W.I. 0929Q/29 to SURCOUF, EAGLE) My 0044B/29 and C. in C.A.W.I. 2232Q/24 have been passed to F.O.C. North Atlantic. (D.O.D.(F) 1550B/29 to C. in C.A.W.I.etc.) Cancel My 0044B/29. Request you will direct SURCOUF to establish a patrol line between following positions 33° 54' N. 36° 00' W. and 33° 54' N. 38° 00' W. (V.C.N.S., 2254B/29 to C. in C.A.W.I.) W.D. Note.- Cancelled on 10/6, (Admty.1616B/10)

RAMILLIES.
ESKIMO.
BRITISH EMPIRE.
SOUTHERN PRINCE.

Your 1021P/28. Situation as understood in RAMILLIES, ESKIMO parted company from BRITISH EMPIRE at 0001Z/26 in 048° 42' N. (031°?) 12' W. speed 14 knots. At this time SOUTHERN PRINCE and one M.V. being escorted by BEDOUIN and IMPULSIVE as far as position X were 100 Miles astern speed 11 knots. Ships following route given in your 1737P/22. Am continuing on route at 15 knots in estimated vicinity of BRITISH EMPIRE. (RAMILLIES, 0120Z/29 to F.O.3. B.S.)

/Your 0120Z/29 .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

RAMILLIES.
ESKIMO.
BRITISH EMPIRE.
SOUTHERN PRINCE.
contd.

Your 0120Z/29. BRITTANIC now arrived Halifax. (R.A.S.B.S., 1507P/29 to RAMILLIES)

WARSPITE.

Your Ukarm 305, WARSPITE can be accepted. Navy Dept. would prefer her to be taken on West coast at Bremerton U.S. Navy Yard but if this is unacceptable to Admiralty would arrange for her to be taken on the East coast. 1511/28. (B.A.R.M. 0433/29 to Admty.)

REPULSE.

Cancel my 1935/28. Have found TEAKWOOD and am returning with her to Conception Bay. Having fuelled intended to sail P.M. today to comply with your 1333/28. (REPULSE, 0700Z/29 to Admty.)
Your 1955Z/28. In addition to TEAKWOOD Oiler VANJA should also arrive Conception Bay today 29th. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1110B/29 to REPULSE)

U.S.
Submarines.

Following received from U.S. Naval Authorities Washington. Approx. dates of routine submarine voyages in Atlantic. (Alusna, 0945/29, to Admty.)

WINNIPEG.

Crew totals 115 including officers. Anticipate latter will all stay Vichy. Indications of crew about 30 will sign for De Gaulle. Passengers include 3 Junior French Naval Officers enroute for Martinique to join EMILE BERTIN. Request special instructions as regards these. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1008Q/29 to Admty.)
Reply: Head of M., 0001/4.

/Canadian Destroyers, St.John's..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

Canadian Destroyers, St.John's — Proposals in your No.844 were put to Canadian Gov. on 24/5 and member of the staff was informed orally today that reply will indicate that Canadian Gov. should welcome suggestion that destroyer flotilla should be based on St.John's N.F. and that they would offer to take responsibility for it under R.C.N. (U.K. High Commissioner, Canada, 1234/29 to S. of S. Dominions.)

CALIFORNIA. — Carries large number of passengers for U.K. and stores for Iceland. Desirable she should be escorted to Reykjavik as soon as possible. Can this be arranged? (R.A.3 B.S. 1441P/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

ARICA
BARFLEUR
(Vichy) — Following from Navy Dep. from U.S. Naval Observer Martinique. French vessel
-ARICA will leave Martinique 30/5 escorted by BARFLEUR in an easterly direction. Will return to Martinique 31/5 or 1/6. (N.A. Washington, 1445/29 to Admty.)
-ARICA expected to leave Martinique 30/5 escorted by BARFLEUR. If intercepted ship is to be shadowed and reported but no other action taken until escort has parted company and has been clear for at least 12 hours. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2131Q/29 to CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN)

Base at St. John's N.F. — Your 1940B/23 and My 1502Z/26.
All requirements at St. John's N.F. outlined in Admty.1940B/23 will be provided from Canadian sources. Meantime we would appreciate assistance of tanker and store ship and also if possible depot ship until facilities are established. Increased oil fuel storage already in hand. Permanent moorings for one store ship or oiler and Trots for destroyers and Corvettes will be laid (? early) in June. Personnel for base staff will be provided from R.C.N. so far as is practicable. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1626Z/29 to Admty.)

/PRINCE DAVID ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

PRINCE DAVID. Bermuda departure PRINCE DAVID flying flag of C. in C. A.W.I. in accordance with my 10210/28. (C. in C.A.W.I. 17500/29)

Stores, W. Indies. My 1558/23. Diversion of ships to Western Atlantic will lead to greater demand for provisions and stores than normally, notably Pernambuco and Trinidad and to a lesser extent at Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Thomas. To avoid possible delay to shipping bona fide suppliers should be warned confidentially of likelihood of an increased demand in future. (D.T.D. 1950B/29 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

Newfoundland Escort Groups. Pending arrival of further escort forces request corvettes at St. John's, N.F. be organised into two Groups and that first group be detailed to escort H.X.129 accompanying convoy to prudent limit of endurance and then returning to St. John's. Second Group will be required to escort H.X.130. (D.O.D.(H)1953B/29 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Explosion. Heavy explosion seen and heard 250° 20 miles from my position 42.5° N. 43.8° W. Nothing heard on wireless. (SALAMIS 2100/29 to Admty.)

ZAMZAM. Request you will report reason S.S. ZAMZAM was issued with S.P.02272(12) contrary to instructions in A.M.S.I. (D.T.D. 2118B/29 to Consul, New York)

/IZARRA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

IZARRA. Your 1641B/17. IZARRA arrived here 1800Z today. Request instructions as to return of armed guard. Admty. please pass to last 3 addressees. (N.O.I.C. St. John's, N.F. 2147Z/29)

SURCOUF. Cancel my 0729Q/29. Proceed to establish patrol between following position :-
033° 54' N. 056° 00' W.
033° 54' N. 038° 00' W. C. in C. S.A. is requested to inform EAGLE and DUNEDIN. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2301Q/29 to SURCOUF)

Dutch Ships to French Ports. Pass to NETHERSHIP New York, from NEDSHIP London (begins) No Dutch ships are to call at French Antilles ports. Understand PRINS BERNHARD now at Trinidad has 700 tons fertilisers loaded at Puerto Rico for Guadeloupe. Please instruct Master and Owners accordingly. (ends)
(D.T.D. 2217B/29 to Consul, New York.)

REPULSE Fuel at St. John's. (i) REPULSE oiled from TEAKWOOD today. TEAKWOOD still has 6500 tons Admiralty fuel. (N.O.I.C. St. John's, N.F. 2241Z/29 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

TEWKESBURY (torpedoed 21/5.) — British, 4601 tons, bound independently from Rosario for Oban with foodstuffs, reported torpedoed at 2145/21 in 06.00 N., 24.00 W. 20 survivors picked up by American EXHIBITOR. (D.S. 633, 30/5.)

RADAMES (torpedoed 25/5.) — Egyptian, 3575 tons, bound independently from Vizagapatam for Barry Roads, torpedoed at 1700/25 about 70 miles W. by S. of Monrovia. All crew except 1 saved and on board, H.M.S. VELOX (D.S. 633, 30/5.)

MARCONI (torpedoed 26/5.) — British, 7402 tons, from Manchester to River Plate in ballast, American Press report states torpedoed and sunk on 26/5 and that 39 survivors rescued by an American Coastguard cutter 270 miles S.E. of Greenland. (D.S.633, 30/5.)

S/M's Reported.

1850/28. — Your 1850z/28. Catalina aircraft will take off at 0430/29 to search. (F.O.C.N.A. 0040B/29 to SEVERN, 0055A/29, to S.O. Force H, Capt. D.8. FEARLESS.)

2047/28. — D/F bearings at 2047/28, G.M.T. indicate Italian U/B within 40 miles of 36° N., 11° W. (D.D.I.C. 0322B/29 to ARGUS.)

0830. — Aircraft report U-Boat in position 035° 30' N., 010° 10' W., at 0830 course E., 12 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1115B/29 to N.A. Stn.)

ITALIAN. — Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1401B/29.)

1431. — U-Boat in position 035 30' N., 010 00' W., at 1431. (F.O.C.N.A. 1509A/29, to Admty.)

/My 1509A/29.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. Contd.

1431. Contd. My 1509A/29 S/M was sighted on the surface by LONDON aircraft on course 290° speed 10 knots and subsequently submerged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1543A/29, to Admty., ARGUS, etc.) U-boat sighted by aircraft in position 035° 30' N., 010° 00' W., at 1431A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1541A/29, to CAIRNDALE.) Five motor launches sailed 1915 to hunt U Boat reported in position 035° 30' N., 010° 00' W., at 1531. S.O. in HICKORY. (F.O.C.N.A., 1945B/29, to FURY, FORESTER, ARGUS, FEARLESS, COREOPSIS, FLEUR DE LYS.

1701. Italian U-boat bearings by D/F from Gibraltar 266 first class. (F.O.C.N.A. 1701/29, to FURY, FORESTER, ARGUS, SCARBOROUGH, FLEUR DE LYS.

1535. 882 U Boat reported by aircraft in position 050° 46' N., 006° 00' W.,(?) at 1535/29 course 90° 4 knots. Reliable report. (C. in C. Plymouth; 1804/29, to Plymouth Command.)

1531. 5 M.L's sailed from Gibraltar at 1915 to hunt U Boats reported in 035° 30' N., 010° 00' W., at 1531. (F.O.C.N.A. 1949B/29. to CAIRNDALE.)

2130. Investigate U/Boat D/F in position 224° Milford 23 miles at 2130 B. (C. in C. W.A., 2142B/29, to CAMELLIA.) Cancel my 2142B/29. (C. in C. W.A., 2159B/29.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.5.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

1335/23. Attacked by Beaufort A/C.,returning to base from La Rochelle Bay 160 kts., co. 313 height 200 feet. When crossing Isle d'Oleron at 1335 sighted U/Boat 2 miles away 20 points to port co. 220 - 18 kts. U/Boat was on the surface and men were on deck and in conning tower. A/C circled U/Boat fired red Vereys. A/C made dive attack 800 to 500 feet releasing stick of 4 x 250 G P bombs tail fused 11 seconds delay one second intervals and firing with forward M/G. U/Boat opened fire with cannon and M/G. One bomb was seen to burst having undershot by 20 yards other bursts not seen A/C did climbing turn to 800 feet and U/Boat again fired red vereys. A/C delivered beam attack diving from 800 to 500 feet and releasing 2 bombs as before one seen to burst on either side of U/Boat missing by 20 yards. M/G fire from U/Boat ripped holes in leading edges of both wings. A/C turned again and saw that U/Boat had turned and was heading for La Rochelle. A/C delivered M/G attack from 200 feet with forward gun abeam of U/Boat. Bullets seen to hit conning tower but no casualties seen. Cannon shells from U/Boat hit A/C in observers cockpit and starboard petrol tank many M/G bullets hit wings and fuselage. A/C made for base and crash landed near Penzance. 2205/29.

MOST SECRET.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

F.O. 2 C.S. in AURORA sailed with KENYA at 0430 today from Iceland to search an area in the North Atlantic for a possible enemy supply ship.

Newfoundland Escort Force.

The proposed reorganisation of the Western Approaches Escort Force necessitated by the institution of the Newfoundland Escort Force is given in C. in C. W.A. 1301B/30.

Enemy Air Operations.

At 0100 enemy aircraft flew over Sanday (Orkneys). Three explosions were heard, but no damage appears to have been caused.

S.S. EMPIRE SAILOR reported being attacked at 2318 in 57° 6' N 10° 7' W. (P.D.)

Mining.

Mines were detonated off Sheerness.
S.S. WEST AVON was mined in the Thames Estuary at 1402.

Mines were detonated off Yarmouth.

MOST SECRET.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal. Admty. 1041B/30 to C. in C. Med. refers.

Syria. The Admiralty today sent two important messages to C. in C. Med., concerning Syria.

Alexandria. A few mines are reported to have been dropped at Alexandria last night.

S.S. FLORIDA II ISARCO Three Blenheims today attacked the damaged Italian S.S. FLORIDA II and the ISARCO which was stationary near her, about 4 miles east of Sfax. Results were not seen.

Syria. Blenheims carried out a R/C of the harbours at Latakia and Beirut today, but no unusual shipping was seen.

Hospital ships. In view of the deliberate attacks on British Hospital Ships, the Admty today gave permission to C. in C. Med., to seize any Italian hospital ships encountered.

MOST SECRET.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

North Atlantic.

R.F.A. Oiler CAIRNDALE was reported torpedoed and sunk at 0818 today in 55° 19' N 8° 33' W.

Tanker BRITISH YEOMAN (independent) was reported torpedoed at 0304 in 55° 28' N 8° 11' W, but actually she was unsuccessfully attacked at 0351/30.

S.S. EMPIRE STORM, a straggler from H.X.128 made S.O.S. this morning in 55° N 39° 50' W (about 700 miles N.E. of St. Johns N.F.)

South Atlantic.

M.V. SANGARA was believed torpedoed at anchor at Accra at 2230 G.M.T. today. S.S. EMPIRE PROTECTOR is reported to have been torpedoed at 1120 G.M.T. in approx. 5° 48' N 14° 18' W.

S.S. SILVERYEW (independent) was reported torpedoed at 0030 G.M.T. in 15° 42' N 25° 29' W.

S.S. RINDA (Norwegian) was torpedoed and sunk at 2240 G.M.T. in 6° 52' N., 15° 14' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Channel Convoy Escorts.

Admty. 1616/29. Request you will provide 2 destroyers for C.E.36. Both these destroyers and one from Nore Command will be sailed as escort for C.W. 37. Thereafter propose escort should be one destroyer from each Command, the destroyer from Nore generally remaining at Portsmouth between arrival of C.W. and sailing of next C.E. (C. in C. Nore 1026B/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth) Your 1026B/30 Concur.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1725B/30 to C. in C. Nore.)

W.A. Escort Forces.

My 2241B/26. Following reorganisation of escort forces is proposed. Request very early approval. (C. in C.W.A. 1301B/30 to Adty.)

Action if Germans occupy all France.

Add to address of my 1332b/27 "repeated F.O.C.N.A. 583". (Head of M.2025B/30)

Defence of U.K.

Invergordan.

Following received from N.O.I.C. Invergordan begins. Re provision of more efficient A/A defences. (C. in C. Rosyth 1829/30 to Adty.)

Rosyth A/A Gun Defences.

A.293. Please transfer eight H.A.A. Guns immediately from Clyde to increase defences of Rosyth Dockyard as temporary measure. (H.Q.F.C. 2047/30 to A.A.Command)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

OSIRIS.
THRASHER for Gibraltar.

Sail OSIRIS and THRASHER for Gibraltar on completion of working up about 14/6. (F.O.S. 1296B/30 to S.S.)

ASCANIA.

ASCANIA to leave patrol 1900/1/6 and return to Reykjavik.
2. N.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to sail ASCANIA for Halifax providing A/S escort if available. (F.O.C.N.P.1430/30)

GOS.7
KOS.10,11,12.

Request you sail GOS 7 KOS 10,11 and 12 in O.G.64 for onward routeing to Freetown in compliance with Admty. 1656B/14. (C. in C.W.A. 1636B/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

BIRMINGHAM.

BIRMINGHAM is to return to Scapa with all convenient despatch. (C. in C. H.F. 1936B/30)

Operations.

Search for Enemy supply ship.

Your 1948/29. As ARETHUSA is on patrol and requires fuel am taking KENYA if ready in time, and HERMIONE if KENYA is not ready. (C.S.2. 0015B/30 to Adty.)
Admty's 1948B/29. 70% fuel remaining at 2359B/29. My position is off North Cape proceeding Hval Fiord. (ARETHUSA 0017B/30 to F.O.2nd C.S.)
E.T.A. 0900B. (ARETHUSA 0500B/30 to N.O.I.C. Iceland)
Cancel my 0017B/30. Am returning to Denmark Straits. Patrol in view of F.O.C. 2nd C.S. 0015B. (ARETHUSA 0711B/30 to F.O.C.2nd C.S.)
F.O.C.2nd C.S. in AURORA and KENYA sailed 0430. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1249/30)

/Search for BISMARCK ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK.

Departures C. in C.H.F. in KING GEORGE V. and COSSACK, INGLEFIELD, ZULU, ESKIMO, LANCE, NESTOR, SOMALI, JUPITER and PUNJABI. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0623B/30) Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1231B/30)

It has been reported that at 0300B/25 in 57° 40' N. 30° 40' W. and at 0345B/25 in 57° 26' N. 31° W. Lights as from boats, including flares, were sighted believed to be from survivors. Keep a good look out for these. (C. in C.W.A. 1344B/30 to PETUNIA)

Operation TRACER.

Your 2328B/29. Will be ready to sail on 31/5. (VICTORIOUS 0955B/30 to Admty.)

PW.10 or other Operations by M.T.B.'s.

Weather permitting carry out orders contained in My 1502B/28 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 0957B/30 to BEEHIVE)

British Air Activity.

Escorts.

A/A escort by Hudson fighter arranged from first light/30 until arrival.
A/S escort by Anson A/C from 0600 until 0815 then by Hudson. (C. in C. Rosyth 0226/30 to C. in C.H.F.)
Expect close A/S escort with one Catalina aircraft from 2100/30 all night. (A.C.W.A. 1901B/30 to OTTAWA)

Patrols.

Coastal R/C flight 2000/30. MMRJ COXWOLD LONDONDERRY 062° 24' 016° 40' to Reykjavik 9. (C. in C.W.A. 1643/30)
A Rover patrol by 3 Beaufort A/C is being flown this evening. Object to attack enemy shipping in Skaggerak. R/C of Narvik is also being flown by a Sunderland A/C. (C. in C. Rosyth 1726/30)

MOST SECRET.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Orkneys.	At 0100/30. Enemy aircraft flew N.E. over Sanday. Three explosions heard but no damage. (A.C.O.S. 1100/30)
Peterhead bombed.	Enemy aircraft dropped 2 bombs at 1820 Peterhead Harbour. North Basin slight structural damage. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1840/30)

Mining.

Liverpool.	One Mine detonated by S.A. in 080° Bar Light Vessel 1.4 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0941/30)
Thames Estuary.	Two Magnetic Mines detonated at 2335/29 and 0350/30 as follows. (Capt.M/S. Sheerness 1000/30)
9th M/S. Flotilla Clearance Sweep.	9th M/S F. is to be sailed as soon as possible in accordance with Admty.2226B/28 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1041B/30.)
Yarmouth.	Two L.L. Trawlers detonated Red Mine in 052° 49' 20" N. 002° 10' 30" E. today. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1216B/30)

WESTAVON in F.S.1 was mined at about 1400 today in reported position 040° 1 point 8 miles from B.4 buoy. Ship was 13th in line and was dead astern of ship ahead. Explosion was immediately under bridge. Ship degaussed on 1/2/41 and two coils working at time. After grounding forward ship sank in about 026° 1 point 3 miles from D.4. buoy. No casualties.
(C. in C. Nore. 2219B/30.)

/Convoy F.S.1. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd.)

Convoy F.S.1.
WESTAVON
Sunk.

(British, 2842 Tons) Mined 026° 1.3 miles from B.4 buoy. Ship aground forward. Have 27 survivors. No casualties. (MEYNELL 1402/30)
Following 23 survivors of WESTAVON have been landed at Sheerness today.
Following 2 navel ratings and 2 military ranks were landed. (Commodore, Sheerness 2309B/30)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units.

Positions. (D.D.I.C. 1520B/30)

M/V off Bergen on 23/5.

MINERVE reports at 2055B/23 sighted one large northbound merchant ship in 60° 10' N. 3° 33' E. too broad on bow to enable attack to be carried out. (F.O.S. 1828B/30)

Technical.

DORSETSHIRE.
KING GEORGE V.
Turret Defects.

Before and during action with BISMARCK. Recommendations. (DORSETSHIRE 1223B/30, C. in C.H.F.1531B/30)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE STORM.

Following from Resolution Island begins. 2203 G.M.T. S.O.S. EMPIRE STORM particulars unreadable weak signals bearing impossible. Following from Cutter NORTHLAND S.O.S. EMPIRE STORM 55 N. 39.50 W. particulars uncertain. Wishes verification of ships name and call advise Officer in Charge. Ends. (OTTAWA 0116Z/30 to Adty.)

EMPIRE PELICAN.
Grounded 29/5.

My 1308/29. EMPIRE PELICAN refloated yesterday and now at Kirkwall for underwater examination. Preliminary survey indicated damage to tanks only. (A.C.O.S. 1444B/30)

EMPIRE SONG.
(Mined 9/5)

Admiralty desire to find out as much as possible about loss of S.S. EMPIRE SONG. Survivors stated to be taking passage to Avonmouth in ARUNDEL CASTLE. Request any important witnesses may be interrogated before they disperse. (Head of N.L. 1618B/30 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)

SALADIN.

Your 1830B/30. SALADIN A/S gear out of action. Maximum speed 12 knots. Defective bulkhead valve. (SALADIN 1920B/30)

EROS.
(bombed
3/11/40)

Tugs CHAMPION and SEA GIANT towing EROS with DOLIUS in company escorted by JAN VAN BRAKEL sailed. (N.O.I.C. Leith 2100/30)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S. 8.X.

Intend sailing VICTORIOUS NORFOLK NEPTUNE ESPERANCE BAY ASSINIBOINE and SAGUENAY with Convoy W.S.8.X consisting DUCHESS of BEDFORD, PORT WYNDHAM and WAIWERA 2230/31 to R/V with WIVERN, VANSITTART and WILDSWAN from Londonderry in position 270° Oversay 10 miles at 0700 B/1 thence as in Admty. 1341B/23. Fighter protection code word "UNLESS". (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1150B/30 to Admty.)
A.M. 1341B/23. R.A.M. requested to sail 2 destroyers of 17th Div. to escort W.S.8.X. and report names. They should R/V in position A. 360° 8 miles Altacarry at time ordered by C. in C.W.A. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1926B/30 to R.A.M.)
A.M.1341B/23, 1235B/29 and 2328B/29 VICTORIOUS is to remain in company with convoy until in latitude 40° N. VICTORIOUS is then to proceed to Gibraltar escorted by NEPTUNE routed through 35° N. 10° W. NEPTUNE is to embark 12 Oerlikon guns for onward passage to Med., and then proceed with despatch to overtake convoy. F.O.C.N.A. requested to arrange inward A/S escort. (V.C.N.S.2306B/30 to VICTORIOUS, NEPTUNE, F.O.C.N.A.)

H.E.D.F. fitting.

C.S.S. 1531/20. Request you will report name of ships selected. (C. in C.W.A. 1314B/30 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

W.S.9.A.

Your 1259B/29 Para.(1) BIRMINGHAM is detailed. (C. in C.H.F., 1432B/30 to Admty.)

Escort Groups.

And convoys which they are to meet. (C. in C.W.A.2212B/30) See Lion Copy.

/H.X.125 .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (contd.)

H.X.125. Has arrived complete under Cdr. A.S. Mackay, R.N.R. with 56 British and 11 Allied ships. Cargoes. (D.S.633, 30/5)

Kites off N. Cornish Coast. A.M.992A - 1939/22/4 My 1347/16/4. As convoys off N. Cornish coast are still suffering from air attack at night when no fighter escort is present request reconsideration of my proposal that these convoys be allowed to fly kites and balloons up to 1500 feet during dark hours when between Lands End and Hartland Point. Procedure would be similar to that in convoys near Rattray Head and so far as is known would not endanger any of our own bombers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2259/30 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Alantic.

IDA, ATLANTA Italian.	Left here 2300/29 fully loaded with general cargo. (Consul, Las Palmas, 0900/30 to Admty)
U/Boats.	Attacks on BRITISH YEOMAN and CAIRNDALE, etc. See U-Boat Campaign.
CLYDE Enemy Intelligence.	Additional intelligence. In March/April indication that heavy traffic on route 035° from position L between midnight and dawn, but now probably fast convoy proceeding direct from Naples to Marettimo. Indication southbound convoy passing Messina during afternoon. (F.O.C.N.A., 0948A/30 to CLYDE).
OSSAG (German).	Cartagena departure evening 28/5 probably for Marseilles. (S.O.(I) Gib., 0955A/30 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).
SEVERN REGENT O.24. OLYMPUS.	My 1824B/27 not to Admty. SEVERN now available, intend sailing after completion for patrol 10/6 to comply with your 1244C/26. Anticipate REGENT ready to sail 7/6. O.24 is also available patrol in Western Mediterranean 7/6 her place on convoy duties being taken by OLYMPUS. Request you inform me of your G. Patrol for REGENT and O.24. (F.O.C.N.A., 1010A/30 to C. in C. Med).
SURCOUF.	Your 2254B/29. As SURCOUF is now on N.A. Station am I to pass intelligence and information to her. If so request W/T watch. (F.O.C.N.A., 1330A/30 to Admty) Reply 1948B/31
Aircraft for Gibraltar.	X.297. Further to my X.118 29/5. Owing to weather 10 Blenheims have not yet left Thornaby. 200 Group pass to S.O. Force H. (Air Min., 1355/30, to H.Q. R.A.F., M.E.) Your X.297, 30/5. Have aircraft left? (200 Group, 2010/30 to Air Ministry.)

/Suspicious.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Suspicious Escort Vessel.

Sighted escort vessel identity unknown modern type. Approx. 900 tons P.C. and 3. 039° 00' N 009° 58' W 000° 11.
(LOCH OSKAIG. 1455B/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Movements.

Sail Destroyers toward position 035° 19' N 008° 33' W. WRESTLER 1600 at 25 knots. BIDEFORD 1700 at 13 knots, request you issue them necessary orders. At 2130 order motor launch to return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1541A/30 to Capt. D.8).
My 1541A/30. Amend last sentence to read: Motor Launches remain until daylight/31 if fuel permits.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1701/30 to Capt. D.8).

Air attack on U/B

Daily Summary operational. 1 A.S. search following attack on BRITISH YEOMAN. No results Ref. summary aircraft dropped 2 bombs 25 yards ahead periscope. Sub. blown to surface but re-submarged not re-located.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1700/30 to Air Ministry).

South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN.

Cancel my 1101N/29. (N.T. in W.R.) Remain at Bathurst after fuelling further instructions follow. (C. in C. S.A., 0011N/30 to DUNEDIN).

Distress signals from torpedoed ships.

Your 1137B/29.
Following is correct version of my 2249N/26 All after "atmospherics bad" (begins). Propose attention of merchant ships (MY 2249N/26 part 2 final from C. in C. S.A.) be called to importance of ships in this area observing D.M.S. (2) article 84. For consideration also that ships should repeat position in words after it has been satisfactorily transmitted in figures if time permits. In one known case also position first made was that of 6 hours previous to attack.
(C. in C. S.A., 0123N/30 to Admty).

/LONDON.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

LONDON. Admty., 2252B/29. E.T.A. Bathurst 1000N/31. Departure 1630 N/31. (LONDON, 0136B/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

INSPECTOR BENEDETTI. Have Capt. and 13 survivors from Argentine ship INSPECTOR BENEDETTI. (ASTURIAS, 0303Z/30 to N.A. Buenos Aires.)

VASNA hospital ship. Your 1133N/26. (destination) Liverpool. (D. of S.T., 0359B/30 to C. in C.S.A.)

LATONA. Arrived Freetown, will fuel and proceed for St. Helena and Cape at 1300N/30 in accordance with your 0032B/29. (C. in C. S.A., 1013N/30 to Admty.) Arriving 1530/7/6. Request 300 tons of oil and fitters etc., to make good urgent defects. Intend sailing 2100/9/6. (LATONA 1040N/30 to N.O.I.C. Durban.)

BENALBANACH. Your 0909B/28. BENALBANACH with particularly important M.T. cargo left Freetown 26/5 for Suez via Cape. Speed 13 knots. (D.D.O.D.(F) 1115B/30 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

LIBERTY GLO. Overdue Shipping. U.S.S. LIBERTY GLO estimated due Freetown 27/5 from Lisbon departure 18/5 has not arrived. (S.O. (I) Freetown, 1146N/30 to Admty.)

NORDERNEY (German.) Returned to anchor after filling up with drinking water. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1533N/30 to Admty.)

AIKATERINI T. Overdue shipping. AIKATERINI T due Cape Town 24/4 not arrived. (S.O.(I) Cape Town, 1643B/30.

/CUMBERLAND.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.5.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

CUMBERLAND.	Abandon present operation and proceed towards Cape Verde Islands at 22 knots. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1826B/30 to CUMBERLAND).
CILICIA CARNARVON CASTLE.	My 1125/27 and My 1233/28. CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE left Simonstown 28/5 to patrol K.1. D.C. 832 A in view of possible attack on Cape North American or Cape U.K. trade routes. Possible now one enemy unit may have moved to West and one to South. (C. in C. S.A., 1901N/30 to R.A.S.A.D.)
U/B Report.	At 0233Z/30. (See U-Boat Campaign).
CAP ARCONA. (German).	My 0131/1 not to Freetown. Santos report (begins). Consul General Sao Paulo reports German Colony are expecting German ship CAP ARCONA. Press report 18/5 stated ship was ready to sail from Bordeaux for Rio de Janeiro. (Ends). (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2141Z/30 to Admty).
WINDHUK (German).	Following from Santos, A.2. Machinery which was landed from German WINDHUK is now being replaced. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2147Z/30 to S.A.D.) WINDHUK obtained clearance expected to sail tonight. (N.C.S.O. Santos, 2245Z/30 to R.A.S.A.D.)
CITY OF DURBAN.	Departure 1245N/30 CITY OF DURBAN to operate in vicinity of S.L. 76 until about 1200/31 then to patrol as in my 0141N/29. (C. in C. S.A., 2155 N/30.)

MOST SECRET.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ATLAS -(German)	Arrived Valencia 28/5. (Valencia No T.O.O.,/30 via M.W.T.)
OTRANTO, ratings for U.K.	P.S.T.O. Egypt 1251C/29. This is of vital importance as these Officers and men are required most ugently at home. I have directed that these men should be embarked. (C. in C. Med., 0810C/30 to C. in C. E.I.)
UPRIGHT UTMOST.	Leave patrol as follows to arrive Marsamxett 0730B/4. UTMOST p.m./2 through 036° 15' 012° 50'. UPRIGHT p.m./3 through 035° 51' 015° 15' and 036° 00' 014° 52'. (Cdr. S.1., 0959B/31 to UPRIGHT, UTMOST).
OTTO LEONHARDT. (German).	Following is a repetition of corrupt Gibraltar most immediate. OTTO LEONHARDT cleared from Malaga between midnight and 0630/30 0745. (Ends.) (Consul Malga, 1015/30 to Admty).
RAMB IV.	Following is N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik's 2245C/29 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area. (begins) RAMB IV has arrived as Hospital ship flying Italian colours with original Italian crew of 36 including four Officers plus British navigating party. Master under impression ship returning, the Italians immune from seizure (Ends). Request definite instructions whether (?colour) is to be removed and British flag flown. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1033C/30 to D. S.T.)
Suez Canal.	1st S.L. 1041B/30 to C. in C. Med., See Mediterranean Volume.
Syria.	1st S.L., 1043b/30 and V.C.N.S. 1045B/30 to C. in C. Med., See Mediterranean Volume.

/ Suez Canal.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Suez Canal. Mines.	Your 1730B/26 para (1) In amplification of my 1801/27 in cases of mines destroyed markings has proved good. Main disadvantage we have to contend with is that so many splashes are always reported on which we have to act. How many of these are actual mines we never know. Recent minelaying has always been accompanied by bombing and machine gunning. This and the dropping of some mines without parachute makes description of objects dropped in canal difficult to determine. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1052C/30 to Admty).
Operation SPLICE.	What was the average, maximum and minimum fuel remaining in each of flights referred to in para 2 and 3 of my 2120/21. (F.O. Force H., 1140/30 to V.A. Malta).
UNION.	Leave patrol along 035° 20' and through 035° 31' 014° 12'. Arriving Marsamxett 0730B/2. URGE leaves Malta p.m./1 through 035° 42' 014° 10' to Westward. (Cdr. S.1. 1230B/30 to UNION).
Alexandria Raid.	Air raid over Alexandria 0200 to 0330 when a small number of bombs and mines were dropped. 2 naval ratings killed and 5 injured in a shore establishment. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1251C/30 to C. in C. Med).
URGE.	Leaves Malta p.m./1 through 035° 45' 013° 00' for area L 035° (? 20') 011° (? 27') - 342° 30 - 70. (Cdr. S.1., 1327B/30 to UNIQUE, UTMOST.)
Air attack on FLORIDA II.	On information that Italian M/V FLORIDA previously attacked and damaged by Blenheims had been towed out of Sfax Harbour, 3 Blenheims of 82 Sqdn. detailed to attack and dropped 4 250 lbs GP bombs. No destroyer seen but FLORIDA and another stationary M/V 6000 tons 60 feet away attacked 3 to 4 miles East of Sfax. No direct hits but near misses delay

/action bombs no.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (contd).

Air Attack on FLORIDA II (contd).	action bombs no results seen. Considerable and fairly accurate opposition from FLORIDA only. All aircraft returned. (H.Q. Malta, 1346/30).
URGE UNION UPHOLDER UNBEATEN	URGE leaves Malta p.m./1 for area L 035° 20' 011° 27' - 342° - 30 - 70. UNION arrives Malta a.m./2 UPHOLDER and UNBEATEN ready to leave about 6/6 and 8/6 respectively latter having battery earths rectified. Patrol area not yet decided. (Cdr. s.l. 1350B/30 to Capt. S.l.)
Malta air Raid.	C.S.R. Malta. All times G.M.T. up to 1600/30. Early morning 30/5, 5 enemy aircraft approached Malta individually 4 dropped bombs in sea north of Island. 5th aircraft dropped bombs in field causing no damage or casualties. (H.Q. Malta, 1710/30 to Air Ministry.)
BARHAM.	Your 1939C/29. Approved for BARHAM to dock at Durban. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1730B/30 to C. in C. Med).
BESSARABIA TRANSILVANIA.	Reported Roumanian Merchant ships BESSARABIA and TRANSILVANIA will be sailing shortly for Beirut with German troops. (Capt. S.l. 1831C/30 to Greek S/M NEREUS).
Malta Fulmars.	As requirements for Fulmars at Gibraltar as given in Air Ministry 1488/25 no longer appear necessary in view of Admty 1926/27. It is proposed to employ Fulmars Malta largely in conjunction with 830 Sqdn. until they are required elsewhere. Their employment would be (1) as long range escort to Swordfish (2) to provide crews to repair strength of Swordfish striking force. (V.A. Malta, 2009B/30 to C. in C. Med).
CANADA	French Hospital ship CANADA was sighted in 34° 35' N 29° 15' E course 250° 10 knots at 1755/30. If this ship is sighted she is to be asked to proceed to Haifa forthwith. (?Force) is not to be used. (C. in C. Med., 22360/30 to Med Fleet).

Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Enemy Hospital ships, capture.

Your 1254/26/4 and 1150/18/5. Proposal approved. Delay due to necessity of consulting Dominions who also possess hospital ships. (Head of M, Approved by Prime Minister 2243B/30 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy Aircraft losses.

Number and type of enemy aircraft shot down by Naval forces. (C. in C. Med., 2254/C/30) See Lion Copy.

Attack on Crete.

C.S.15.

Fulmars 845 call sign F.2 patrol over you 1700 to 1830 relieved by second section call sign L C.3 from 1830 to 1945.
(C. in C. Med., 12100/30 to C.S.15).

F.B's

2 Flying boats leave Egypt for Crete E.T.D. 1700/30.
(Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 1515C/30 to Med Fleet Force I).

15 C.S.
PHOEBE.

E.T.A. in PHOEBE 2200. Remainder of Force D. E.T.A. 0030/31 unless otherwise ordered. PHOEBE has on board 765 passangers including 75 walking wounded and 21 (2 corrupt groups) also 2 women.
(F.O. 15 C.S. 1830C/30 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria). On arrival about 2230 PHOEBE is to disembark passengers and complete with oil fuel and ammunition with all despatch to be ready for sea by 0600. NAIAD is to provide full ammunition part. (C. in C. Med. 1845/30 to C.S.15).

Supplies by Air.

1 Wellington dropping supplies at Fukka at approx 0400/31 local time then proceeding to Plaka Bay for same purpose.
(C. in C. Med., 2309/30 to NAPIER, NIZAM).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LEANDER.	Request you will sail LEANDER to join Med. Fleet. (A.C.N.S. (F) 00363/30 to C. in C.E.I).
ERICA.	ERICA sailed E.T.A. Kilindini 1400Z/5. Routed in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1110Z/18/4. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0649Z/30 to N.O.I.C. East Africa).
Raider Intelligence.	CORNWALL's 1430/10 my 0700/11. Further interrogation of survivors gives following. (C. in C. E.I., 0820Z/30 to Admty etc).
DURBAN.	DURBAN is to leave Colombo at 1100Z/31 and proceed Penang arriving a.m./4/6. (C. in C. E.I., 1206Z/30 to DURBAN).
Abadon.	Instruction to inspector, Admiralty Fuel, in a certain contingency. (C. in C. E.I., 2058Z/30 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf). See Operations Volume.

China.

T/B attacks on BISMARCK.	C. in C. F.E. asks experience gained by F.A.A. Aircraft in attack on BISMARCK. (C. in C. China, 0513Z/30 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SUFFOLK.

Your 1947B/29. Search of area 057° to 058° N and 044° to 050° W ordered in your 1015B/26. completed 2200B/29 60% efficiency in bad weather low visibility using type 284. Intend to sail for further search after refuelling Concepcion Bay probably p.m./31.
(SUFFOLK, 0001Z/30 to Admty).

C. in C.

UKARM 339. Your 1021Q/28. In view of PRINZ EUGEN being at large it is undesirable that you should leave Bermuda at the present time.
(V.C.N.S. 0150B/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SALAMIS explosion.

S.S. SALAMIS reports seeing and hearing heavy explosion bearing 250° 20 miles from her position 42° 30' N 43° 48' W at 2100 G.M.T. /29. No W /T signal heard.
(D.C. 0523B/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Heavy explosion reported at 2100Z/29 in approx. 042° 25' N 044° 10' W. Any ship in vicinity should investigate if circumstances.permit.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1042Q/30 to North Atlantic Escort Force, TRUANT, TALISMAN.

WINNIPEG. (Vichy).

Terms for recruiting crew for De Gaulle, etc.
(D. of S.T., 0750B/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
See Lion Copy.
WINNIPEG French passengers report when ship ordered stop by Dutch Cruiser several sacks were thrown overboard from bridge B.2. No steps yet taken to convert Casablanca to German Naval Base.. 14/5 French battleship JEAN BART in harbour, activity on superstructure guns, and torpedo landed from her. Activity 10 submarines 1 cruiser 1 aircraft catapult ship. B.1. 2 Further refugee ships due to follow WINNIPEG.
(C.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1044Q /30 to Admty).
Your 0941Q/26 Hope to remove everyone in few days when examination by very small staff of security officers is (?complete).
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1535Q/30 to C. in C. A.W.I)

/TRUANT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

TRUANT.	Cancel A.T. 1659B/28. Establish patrol between 44° N 41° W and 41°N 44° W. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0928/30 to TRUANT). Cancel my 1302Q/25. H.M.S. TRUANT is required for A/S test with U.S. authorities in Long Island Sound before refitting and is to arrive in daylight in 041° 09'N 071° 57' W. Acknowledge on reaching 060° W and report E.T.A. at above position. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1312Q/30).
C. in C. A.W.I. flag.	Cancel my 1027Q/28. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0958Q/30).
FORTH.	Present intention is that FORTH should proceed to St. John's N.F. and act as depot and repair ship, until shore facilities are satisfactory. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1136B/30 to R.A.3).
French territory Martinique.	Ambassador Washington telegram to F.O. 2450/29 being passed to you. British aircraft are not to fly over French territory or territorial waters. Report whether Walrus was over Fort de France on 29/5. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1201Q/30 to CARADOC). Your 1201Q/30 to CARADOC. Albacore aircraft from this station was over Fort de France morning 29/5. (Piarco, 1601Q/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.) Ambassador Washington telegram to F.O. 2450/29 British R/C aircraft passed over Martinique am/29. Air R/C in this area is essential at present time and is being carried out daily by one Walrus aircraft in view of reported activity of French warships who are believed to have accumulated sufficient fuel by now for passage to African ports. I am not content to rely on U.S.A. R/C owing to time lag in passing information. Instructions have now been given that British aircraft are not to fly over French territory or territorial waters. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2221Q/30 to Admty).

/Reports.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Reports from Ferry aircraft.

Arrangements have now been completed for Atlantic ferrying aircraft to report by W/T positions of any submarines sighted and on landing particulars of enemy surface vessels seen. Arrangements will come into force as from 2359/30.
(Air Ministry, 1250/30 to Admty).

French Fishing Schooners.

Report by Officer of REGISTAN in charge of Armed Guard in IZARRA that pro-British Master and Chief Engineer of IZARRA advise following French Fishing Schooners left Bayonne towards end of April: 3 masted ANGELUS, 3 Masted QUANCALAY, 4 Masted BAT SMELOURD (?), 3 masted DUCHATELEY. That DUCHATELEY is being paid 200,000 francs from Germany for report by W/T on movements of British Ships. These vessels are now believed to be fishing about 044° - 045° N 049° 20' - 050° 20' W. The MARTIN PECHEUR had been in company with these ships. (ends).
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1420Z/30 to Admty).

PRINCE DAVID DIOMEDE ALAUNIA.

Bermuda arrivals PRINCE DAVID Flying Flag of C. in. C. A.W.I. Departures DIOMEDE. Convoy BHX 130, Ocean escort ALAUNLA, returning to Halifax through position 42.45N 60.QP.
(C., in C. A.W.I., 1633Q/30 to Admty etc).

IAN TROPIC.

S.O.(I) Freetown 1118N/7. Yugo Slav IAN TOPIC has not arrived Baltimore.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1927Z/30).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRITISH YEOMAN — Following has been read:- 3333 35.28 N 08.11 W BRITISH YEOMAN torpedoed. (Lyness W/T, 0304/30).
SSSS 35.28N 08.11 W at 0300 G.M.T. BRITISH YEOMAN submarine sighted being attacked. (Gibraltar W/T T.O.R. 0351/30).
Attack unsuccessful. Ship is being escorted to port. (D.O.R., 31/5, D.S. 634).
See also 1143/30.

S.S. TEWKESBURY. — (4,601 tons) Rosario to Oban, independent, reported torpedoed 2145/21 in 6° N 24° W. U.S.S. EXHIBITOR picked up 20 survivors (D.S. 633).

MARCONI (torpedoed 21/5). — E.T.A. 1730. G.M.T./30 BURNHAM in company. Have Chief Officer and (?16) survivors from S.S. MARCONI torpedoed on 21/5, all stretcher cases.
(CHURCHILL, 0600Z/30 to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.) MARCONI had dispersed from O.B. 322. (D.O.R. 31/5).

EMPIRE SAILOR. — SSSS Following received from G P.K Port Patrick Radio. 56.41N 14.59W. EMPIRE SAILOR submarine in sight.
(Liverpool W/T 0940/30). W.D. Note - Valentia Radio, 0948/30 gave 56.51N., 14.59W.
EMPIRE SAILOR 56.42 N 15.02 W Submarine sighted 0940/30.
(Valentia Radio, 0943/30).
Following has been read. SSSS Unknown Station correction 56.42N 15.02W.
(Liverpool W/T 0950/30).
Following has been read. Malin Head Radio. Intercept 0957 G.M.T. S S S S correction 56.51N 14.59W EMPIRE SAILOR.
(Liverpool W/T, 0954/30)
Detach one Hunt Class destroyer to assistance of EMPIRE SAILOR who reports U.Boat in 056° 05' N 015° 02' W at 1144B. Destroyer to report name when well clear of convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1224B/30 to OTTAWA.)
Your 1224B, FARNDALE detailed.
(FARNDALE, 1639B/30).

/CAIRNDALE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CAIRNDALE.

Proceed to assistance of Oiler CAIRNDALE in 035° 19' N 008° 33' W.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1007/30 to Capt. D.8).
Does CAIRNDALE require a Tug?
(F.O.C.N.A., 1009/30 to FLEUR DE LYS).
My 1001 to Fleet Tug ST. DAY only. Proceed assistance CAIRNDALE torpedoed 035° 19' N 008° 33' W and be prepared to tow.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1013A/30 to Fleet Tug, ST. DAY).

BRITISH YEOMAN
CAIRNDALE.

Situation 1200/30 FURY, 4 motor launches, hunting U-boat which unsuccessfully attacked BRITISH YEOMAN in position 035° 28' 008° 11' W at 0351/30. AIOUETTE sailed 1130 to join FURY. Capt. (D) 8th D.F. COREOPSIS, FLEUR DE LYS, hunting U-boat which sank oiler CAIRNDALE in 035° 19' N 008° 33' W at 0818/30, FORESTER joining. IMPERIALIST sailed at 0945 AZALEA, WOODRUFF sailed 1300 all to join Capt. (D) 8. Capt. (D)8is to take charge of hunt FORESIGHT escorting ARGUSsighted U-boat on surface at 0600/30 036° 03' N 010° 30' W (5) Motor launch 134 escorting BRITISH YEOMAN+to Gibraltar, Fleet Tug ST. DAY returning to Harbour. (6) One Catalina aircraft leaves 1200 to patrol area west of Gibraltar until dark. Remaining aircraft return Gibraltar 1330.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1143A/30 to Gibraltar Force, Admty etc).
Corvette trawler and motor launch hunting submarine keep watch on 500 kcs. per sec. Destroyer keep watch on 500 kcs. per sec. and 348.8 kcs. per sec.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1158/30).
Belive 4 U-boats are operating between approx. 007° and 010° West.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1243A/30 to N.A. Stn).

WANGI
WANGI.

C. in C. S.A. 1354/26 from intercepted message passengers and complete crew except one fireman, landed Cape Mount Liberia 27/5.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1710N/30).

/S.S. JAPAN.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked (contd).

S.S. JAPAN. C. in C. S.A. 0947/27 intercepted message from Master Swedish JAPAN at Dakar states ship torpedoed 4/5 time or position not stated passengers and crew safe crew at Dakar.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1712N/30 to Admty).

LEXA. Following has been read. SSSS LEXA torpedoed A.S.
(Freetown W/T T.O.R., 2129N/30).

S/M's Reported.

2224/29. At 2224 G.M.T. bearing 283° class 2 from Gibraltar, Italian Submarine.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0013/30 to N.A. Stn).

0300 M.L. 3 and 4 Motor Launches proceeding to 035° 28' N 008° 11' W to hunt U-Boats. FAULKNOR proceeding Gibraltar shortly.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0429A/30 to FURY, FORESIGHT, ARGUS, FLEUR DE LYS, Oiler CAIRNDALE.)

0300 Admty A.F. Position 35° 28' N. 08° 11' W. at 0300/30 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0540/30).

0600 Sighted U Boat on surface in 036° 03' N 010° 39' W. Pass to (? HICKORY).
(FORESIGHT, 0600A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 0600A. U Boat was sighted at range of approx. 4 miles and dived immediately.
(FORESIGHT, 0715A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0642. By D/F at 0642/30 G.M.T. position of German U Boat probably homeward bound was 46° N - 47° N 6°W- 7° W.
(D.D.I.C., 0927B/30).

/Estimated U.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (cond.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1435B/30).

1736 — SALADIN and LEAMINGTON proceeding to hunt for U Boat reported by aircraft in 055° 56' N 009° 28' W at 1736B.
(C. in C. W.A., 1830B/30 to SALADIN).

0233. — D/F bearings at 0233Z/30 indicate U-boat within 60 miles of 012° 30' N 036° 30' W. Reliability 65%. The type message may indicate a rendezvous.
(C. in C. S.A., 1903N/30 2031N/30 to S.A. Stn).

Submarines Attacked.

By FORESTER. — Attacked submarine on the surface position 180° 36° N, 10° W. 18 X 19.
(FORESTER, 0030B/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0415A 30th. Three attacks delivered, result not seen, have lost contact. Am sweeping with (?FURY) in the vicinity 035° (?41) N 010° 00' W.
(FORESTER, 0445A/30 to F.O.C.NA.)
Your 0413 A to M.L 3. No further contact obtained. My P.C.& S. at 0800A, 035° 41' N 010° 00' W 100° 20 knots. FURY in company.
(FORESTER, 0800A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By NORTHERN CHIEF. — Investigated contact position 063° 09' N 014° 42' W.
(NORTHERN CHIEF, 1935B/30 to S.O.N. Pt.)
My 1935B/30 one attack carried out. Contact dispersed. Resumed patrol.
(NORTHERN CHIEF, 2020B/30 to S.O.T.N.P.)

By NOTTS COUNTY. — In contact with Submarine on my starboard side my position 62.52N., 15.25 W.
(NOTTS COUNTY, 2315B/30).

MOST SECRET.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

4 M.G.B's left Harwich at 2057B for operations off the Belgian coast.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today on account of bad weather.

Mining.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated lastnight in Liverpool Bay and the Bristol Channel.

Mines were detonated off St. Ann's Head and cut off Falmouth today.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN will not be taken in hand for refit at present.

It appears from a corrupt signal that P.32 on passage to Gibraltar has been damaged by bombs.

MOST SECRET.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. reports that he considers it imperative to increase the A/S vessels available at Freetown.

Mediterranean.

S.S. FLORIDA II attacked.

S.S. FLORIDA II (Italian) was attacked by 3 Blenheims at 0700 whilst at anchor 4 miles outside Sfax. Three direct hits are reported

Alexandria.

From 2300 to 2400/31 there was an air raid on Alexandria during which mines were laid south of the Great Pass. The port is open.

Evacuation of Crete.

About 12,000 troops had been evacuated from Crete up to midnight tonight, with 500 military casualties from Air attack on passage NAPIER and NIZAM have arrived at Alexandria with 1509 troops. PERTH and NAPIER have been damaged by air attack. NAPIER and NIZAM shot down one a/c and damaged 3 more. KELVIN was extensively damaged.

NIZAM

Some long range fighter protection was available yesterday and today for H.M. and Merchant ships evacuating troops, and several enemy aircraft were destroyed, damaged or driven off. Many fighters, failed, however, to make contact with our forces at sea.

Twelve aircraft last night attacked Maleme and Heraklion aerodromes which the enemy are using as bases for attacks on our troops in Crete. Several enemy aircraft are reported to have been destroyed or damaged.

Naval casualties during the recent operations are reported to be 100 officers and 1700 men.

VALIANT is now fit for service.

MOST SECRET.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

The Iraq authorities today asked for and were granted an armistice.

America & West Indies.

SUFFOLK's orders have been altered (see Home Commands 29/5) and she is to search for PRINZ EUGEN. Other forces in the area are TRUANT, REPULSE and REVENGE (For dispositions see Admty. 1328B/31 to SUFFOLK).

Arrangements have now been completed for Atlantic ferrying aircraft to report by W/T positions of any S/Ms sighted and on landing particulars of enemy surface vessels seen.

U-Boat Campaign.

It is thought that U-boats may be operating in Denmark Straits and to northward of Iceland (C).

N.W. Approaches.	S.S. GRAVELINES, a straggler from H.X. was torpedoed at 0130B in 55° N 10° W or 56° N 10° W.
South Atlantic.	S.S. CLAN MACDOUGAL reported being torpedoed at 0226 N in 16° 50' N 25° 10' W (off Cape Verde Is.)

Owing to the increase in the number of ships calling at St. Vincent (C. Verde Is.) it is thought that enemy S/Ms will be waiting off the islands. The Admty have instructed C. in C. S.A. to arrange for ships leaving St. Vincent to be escorted from territorial waters as far out as possible. Ships are being re-routed to avoid Cape Verde Is.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.5.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign

SS SIRE which left Las Palmas 25/5 for Freetown is reported to have been torpedoed at 0807 today. The position is not known.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A/A Protection by Destroyers.

In view of the bombing of ARCHANGEL who was escorted by one of the Hunt class, it is considered no Home Fleet destroyer can give adequate A/A protection to these ships full of troops.
The point of view is borne out by the recent sinking of MASHONA in company with another TRIBAL.
When there is no Hunt class available at Scapa I suggest that this should be a liability of the Rosyth Escort Force.
(R.A.D. 0046/31 to C. in C. H.F.)
R.A.(D)'s 0046/31. The bombing of S.S. ARCHANGEL was carried out at a time when any protection would be of the most doubtful value and it is considered that action in accordance with my 1512/28/4 is the way to avoid these attacks. Only Sloops with very moderate A/A gunfire are available for convoy escort duties North of the Forth. The Rosyth Escort Force, being already hard put to it to carry out its normal convoy escort duties, has quite inadequate numbers to cover extraneous commitments of this nature. Only very rarely can special escorts for independent sailings be provided.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1319/31, to C. in C. H.F.)

Closing of N.A. Section at Sullom Voe.

Your 2102B/22 May. Concur. A.C.O.S. is making necessary arrangements for Sullom Voe, but Stornoway is not now in Orkneys Command. (C. in C. H.F. 1540B/31.)

Ocean Convoy Escorts.

It is considered that the force referred to in your 1939B/23 / para. 2 should be amended in accordance with the numbers shown in my 1301B/30. i.e. 32 destroyers, 31 corvettes, and 9 sloops initially, plus cutters as they become available.
(2) This Force, which will be based on St. Johns, will work between Newfoundland and Iceland and will provide escort right through from the R.V. off Newfoundland as far as the R.V. with U.K. escorts off Iceland, and vice versa, as in my 2241B/26.

/There will.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

Ocean Convoy Escorts.

There will thus be no separate force based in Iceland, but the present. Intended maintenance facilities in Iceland should enable some relief to be given to St. Johns by carrying out a proportion of running repairs in Iceland while escorts are waiting there for 3 or 4 days at the end of each northerly run.
(3) It is estimated that up to 16 ships initially, i.e. an average of 7 Destroyers, 7 Corvettes and 2 Sloops, will be in Harbour at St. Johns at one time.
(C. in C. W.A. 1827B/31, to Adty.)

Fighter Patrols Trial procedure.

Intend to adopt the following procedure suggested by 10 group for trial with Fighter Aircraft from 10 Group only. The leader of the final fighter Patrol for the day will close S.O. Escort before leaving and fire colour signal for the day. This means that aircraft approaching after this, other than aircraft whose approach has been pre-warned, may be considered hostile. F.O.I.C's Belfast and Milford Haven pass to vessels of Irish Sea Escort Force.
(C. in C. W.A. 1946B/31.)
To help surface escort to decide whether A/C near Convoy are friendly or hostile the following procedure will be carried out,
(1) When last Sortie of day of Fighter Command A/C is about to leave the Convoy the leader will indicate this by closing surface escort and firing current recognition signal.
(2) As Coastal Command A/C always signal by V/S when leaving Convoy the C. in C. will inform surface escort which will be last Sortie of these A/C.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1310/31 to TYNEDALE, etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Thorshaven A/A Defences.

Your 1740/21, was presumably sent before the arrival of N.O.I.C. Faroes 1106B/21. It appears certain enemy must now realise we have no adequate AA protection at Thorshaven and it can only be a matter of time before the harbour is heavily bombed. See also N.O.I.C. Faroes 1041B/29 passed to you. JOSEPHINE THORDEN is a valuable ship containing seven thousand tons of petrol. It is requested therefore that the question of AA defence of Thorshaven may be reopened forthwith.
(A.C.O.S. 1635B/30 to Adty.)
Your 1635B/30. Matter is being considered by Chiefs of Staff in connection with June allocation.
2. Assumption in your first sentence correct.
(D. of L.D. 2050B/31 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

MALVERIAN.

MALVERNIAN is to be ordered to return to Greenock by 12/6.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1512B/31.)

Operations.

Sweep by M.G.B's. off Belgian Coast.

Weather permitting carry out orders contained in my 1520B/28 tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 1107B/31 to BEEHIVE.)
Departures M.G.B.'s 64, 58, 59 and 62.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2057B/31.)

/Denmark.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Denmark Straits Patrol.

HERMIONE is to proceed Hvalfiord to replace ARETHUSA on Denmark Straits patrol
(2) ARETHUSA is to leave patrol at 1600 B/ 1/6 and return Hvalfiord.
(3) C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH is to proceed a.m./1/6 to Hvalfiord. After refuelling EDINBURGH is to replace HERMIONE on Denmark Straits patrol, as arranged by C.S.18, and HERMIONE is to return to Hvalfiord.
(C. in C. H.F. 1209B/31.)
Ships on patrol in Denmark Straits are normally to keep to eastward of a line 360° from North Cape.
(C. in C. H.F. 1211B/31.)
C. in C. H.F., 1209B/31. Intend to proceed 2200B tonight passing through 066° 30' 025° 30' at 1200 B tomorrow.
(HERMIONE 1600B/31.)

Search for BISMARCK.

DORSETSHIRE's 2124B/28. Survivors in MAORI admit three torpedo hits during the night. (C. in C. H.F. 1757B/31.)

British Air Activity.

Sydenham, Belfast.

A.O.C.H.Q., R.A.F. Northern Ireland has informed me that he wishes to transfer 31 Wing which administers Sydenham Belfast from there to Long Kesh before the end of June and that in any case this Wing may move at 24 hours' notice in the event of hostilities in South Ireland. He has requested Air Ministry to establish a reduced H.Q. at Sydenham Belfast to administer 804 Squadron and the R.A.F. communication flight there. As an alternative I would suggest Navy, take over Sydenham Belfast as a Naval Air Station. No alternative accommodation for 804 Squadron exists in Northern Ireland at the present time.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1843P/31.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE SAILOR attacked.

Intercept 2320 G.M.T. from EMPIRE SAILOR 537 06 N. 10 07 W., attacked. Position doubtful. (Liverpool. T.O.R. 0127/31.)
Intercept 2329 G.M.T. from EMPIRE SAILOR Position O.K. Plane now made off de G.L.V. (Liverpool 0136/31.)

Shetlands.

Aircraft identified as JU 88 came in from W.N.W. over Sumburgh at 17-20000 feet at 1030. Sumburgh A/A fired 4 rounds. Aircraft was heard over Lerwick at 1037 and went away N.E.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1141/31.)

Convoy FRANK TWO.

One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy FRANK TWO in position 57° 57' N., 102° 55' E., at 1545.
(IMPULSIVE 1552/31.)

Milford Haven.

Examination vessel machine gunned 2 miles S by E from St. Annes Head at 1725.
No damage, No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1740B/31.)

Orkneys.

One A/C Flying at 8,000 feet identified as J.U.88 was picked up by R D/F North of Strathie Point at 2047/31 and, proceeding on a general Easterly Course, turned North East over Torness. A/C was visually reported by 2 gun.sites at 2106/31 as having crossed the Northern part of Flow between 20,000 and 25,000 feet flying N.E. fighters failed to intercept. Visibility extreme.
(A.C.O.S. 2214/31.)

PNEUMATIC ELEVATOR NO.2. (295 tons.)
EMILY BURTON (Barge,58 tons.)
BONGO. (Sailing Barge, 46 Tons.)
submerged.

Destroyed or damaged in Air-Raid on Liverpool on Night 3/4 May. (D.S.634.)

/PIKE.....

War Diary.

31.5.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

PIKE (Sailing Barge 168 Tons.) LING (Sailing Barge, 164 Tons.) destroyed by fire. LIMPET (Sailing Barge, 164 Tons.) BONITA (Tug, 65 Tons.) destroyed by Bomb.

Destroyed or damaged in Air-Raid on Liverpool on Night 3/4 May. (D.S.634.)

Mining.

B.S.63.

Operation B.S.63 postponed on account of thick weather. All times in my 1141B/29 to be 24 hours later accordingly. (TEVIOT BANK 0540B/31.)

P.W.10.

My 0957B/30. V.4 reports operation P.W. (10) not completed as position was not established with sufficient accuracy. (C. in C. Nore 0952B/31.) Weather permitting, carry out orders contained in my 1520B/28 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1107B/31 to BEEHIVE.)

Harwich Minefields.

My 1417/24. Operation completed. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1047B/31.)

Milford Haven.

5 Mines detonated today by Sweeper off St. Ann's Head. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1621/31, 1623/31.)

Falmouth.

1 mine cut and sunk by rifle fire in 50°11' 42" N., 4° 47' 48" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1800/31.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. — E. Boats bear 100° approx., from position N., by D/F. (Harwich W/T 0103/31.)
There are slight indications of E Boats on bearing 050° from Winterton at 0142. (C. in C. Nore 0207B/31.)

Casualties and Defects.

GOLDEN SUNBEAM. (A/P Drifter.) damaged. — Wooden drifter GOLDEN SUNBEAM damaged by collision. Temporary repairs being effected at Dover. (V.A. Dover 1129B/31.)

ASIE. (A/S Trawler.) — Clyde arrival ASIE with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1210/31.)

GOLDEN NEWS. — (M/S drifter.) Cancel my 0852B/30. GOLDEN NEWS delayed owing to D/G and hull defects. (F.O. Humber 1438B/31.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Troop Convoys. — Defects preventing sailing, action to be taken. (D.S.T., 0338B/31 to P.S.T.O's etc.) See Lion Copy.

W.S.8.X. — Admty., 1926B/30. Request destroyers may R/V in position 270° Oversay 10 miles at 0700B/1. (C. in C. W.A., 0340B/31 to R.A.(M).
My 1150 B/30 sailed, Codeword "GAUZE". Delete ASSINIBOINE and add LEGION and PIORUN from Clyde. Add to ships meeting at R/V SHERWOOD from Londonderry BRIGHTON and ST. MARY'S from Port ZA. S.O.A. until ESPERANCE BAY and A/S Escort leave 12½ knots thence 14 knots, expected time of passing into North Atlantic Stn.,2000B/4. E.T.A. VICTORIOUS and NEPTUNE 0600 A/7.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2317B/31, to Admty.)

/W.S.9A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.5.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

W.S.9A, BIRMINGHAM. — You are required to provide Ocean Escort for convoy W S 9 A to Cape and will be sailed to arrive Clyde A.M./3. You will subsequently operate in South Atlantic. (C. in C. H.F., 1205B/31, to BIRMINGHAM.)

Use of D/C's. — A.M. 129A of 28/5 delete words "or night" in para. 3 (a) and add new para. 3 (c) "Merchant Vessels in convoy are not to drop depth charges at night without orders unless a U-boat has been seen to dive close to the ship". (A.C.N.S. (T) 1302B/31, "A" Message.)

Kites off N. Cornish Coast. — Following received from C. in C. Plymouth: (quotes his 2259/30.) Request your remarks or concurrence. (D.T.S.D. 1309B/31, to Air Ministry F.O.6.)

BEL PAREIL. — Sailed ARMERIA and BURDOCK escorting S.S. BEL PAREIL in accordance with my 1232B/22/5. E.T.A. Punta Delgada a.m. /7. Code word FAITH. Request you will provide onward route in accordance with C. in C. W.A., 1437B/21. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2013B/31.)

Greek Ships. — Advising pay no attention to any orders unless satisfied that they have come from Greek Committee London or from British Authorities. (D. of S.T. 21540.M.T./31 to all Greek Vessels outside Med'n.)

W.S.9A. 4th D.F. — 4th D.F. are to proceed as requisite to arrive Clyde not later than A.M./3, where they will be required to act as escort for W.S.9A. (R.A.D., 2358B/31, to D.4.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.	German surface ship bearing from Gibraltar 298° second class at 0611 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 0741A/31 to N.A. Stn.) D/F Bearing at 2042Z/30 indicates enemy surface unit within 200 miles 045° 30' N. 014° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1105B/31 to N.A. Stn.) Enemy surface unit indicated by D/F bearing at 2042 G.M.T/30 may have been within 200 miles of 045° 30' N. 014° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1154A/31 to S/M P.32).
4 U/B's.	Following may affect you. 2 British trawlers on patrol off Lisbon. 2 Portuguese exercising off Cezimbra 037° 00' 008° 40'. Believed 4 U-boats are operating between lat. 035° and 037° and meridian 007° and 010° (F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/31 to P.32).
Operation ROCKET.	Your X.411 31/5. F.M.N. requires immediate information. Subject of weather improving today 31/5. (A) Will Blenheim be despatched to arrive before or during night 31/5, (B) Or after first dawn 1/6, (C) Or before 1000 G.M.T. 1/6. (200 Group 1220/31 to Air Ministry O.8). Your A.784 31/5. 10 Blenheims not yet left Thornaby due weather. They cannot reach Gibraltar before 1800 G.M.T. 1/6. Latest foreeast indicates earliest probable time of arrival to be 1500/2/6. (Air Min., 1820/31 to 200 Group). Now been agreed with Admiralty still air flying off distance may be 600 nautical miles. -(Air Ministry 1750/31 G.M.T. to 200 Group)
Lifeboat Found.	An empty ships lifeboat painted yellow No. 50 P E P and riddled with bullets was beached off Porto Moniz, Madeira. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1230/1 to Admty.).

/W/T.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

W/T Interference. — PRINCE OF WALES 2256/26. No interference experienced by A S V fitted in ARK ROYAL's aircraft 26/27/5. Para. 2 of PRINCE OF WALES report. No jamming of W/T on any waves in use was heard. (S.O. Force H., 1525/31 to Admty.)

RENOWN. — Owing to damage received by PRINCE OF WALES it will not be possible to take RENOWN in hand for refit at present. Request report whether recent high speed steaming has caused further damage to RENOWN's bulges. (V.C.N.S. 1947B/31 to S.O. Force H).

SURCOUF. — Your 1330A/30. Intend SURCOUF should remain under direct operational control of C. in C.A. W.I. in present circumstances. He will therefore remain responsible for keeping SURCOUF informed and for ordering her W/T organisation. (D.O.D.(F) 1948B/31 to F.O.C.N.A).

South Atlantic.

WINDHUK (German) — Santos reports obtained leave for admittance to sail tonight 30/5. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 0145Z/31 toS.A. Div.) (C. in C.S.A., 0201N/31 toS.A. Sqdn).
A.2. Clearance for WINDHUK was given at 2200 G.M.T./30 available 24 hours. Ship expected to sail any time. (N.C.S.O. Santos, 1501Z/31 to R.A.S.A.D; S.O.I Montevideo, 1615Z/31 to R.A.S.A.D).

SANGARA. St. Vincent. — Torpedoed at anchor in Accra Roads. (See U-Boat Campaign) U/Boats waiting off Island. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1020/31) (See U-Boat Campaign).

/LATONA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

LATONA.	The frequent alterations of LATONA's movements are much regretted, caused by the many and rapid changes in Mediterranean situation. (V.C.N.S. 1027B/31 to C. in C.S.A.)
HIGHLAND PRINCESS. BRIDGEWATER. CALENDULA.	BRIDGEWATER (? Fuel at) Takoradi if necessary then escort HIGHLAND PRINCESS to Lages with CALENDULA. (C. in C.S.A. 1301N/31, to BRIDGEWATER)
EAGLE. Bathurst.	The low endurance of EAGLE and the activity of submarines off Freetown make her ability to use Bathurst very desirable. Request steps such as improving marking of channel by buoys that will ensure her being able to use the harbour in safety. (V.C.N.S. 1628B/31 to C. in C.S.A.)
LONDON.	Intend leaving Bathurst at 1800N/31 and steaming westward. 27 Officers and 110 ranks landed. 334 passengers including 12 invalids remaining on board. Request repetition of C. in C.S.A's 1325N/31. (LONDON, 1825B/31 to C. in C.S.A.)
A.S.Vessels Freetown.	Proposals to increase. (C. in C.S.A., 1957N/31) See Lion Copy.
Brazilian A/C and WINDHUK sailing.	Lati plane left Pernambuco this morning on an experimental flight with Brazilian Major of Brazilian Air Force as observer for Bahia and Rio de Janeiro. Similar flight took place 28/5 when FRISCO, FRANCO MARTELLI and DRESDEN sailed. WINDHUK expected to sail tonight. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 2011Z/31 to Admty. etc.)

/Shipping at St. Vincent. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

Shipping at St. Vincent.

Request you arrange for ships now at St. Vincent and due to join S.L. Convoy to be escorted from territorial water as far out as possible. Southbound ships from St. Vincent should also be escorted if this is possible. (D.T.D. 2018B/31 to C.in C.S.A.)

Shipping Routes.

Signals re routing certain ships. (D.T.D., 2019B/31, C. in C.S.A. 2056N/31, 2058B/31, 2111N/31, 2114N/31, 2116N/31.)

W.S.8.B.
DUNCAN.
BOREAS.

BRILLIANT having left to join CUMBERLAND, DUNCAN and BOREAS only are available to join and escort W.S.8.B. though possible may provide one corvette for last two days of passage 1 Sunderland will be available 2/6 and 3/6. (C. in C.S.A. 2223N/31 to Admty.)

FORTUNSTELLA. (Italian)

At Quequen loading 300 tons coal from E.H. Juliani and Co. Reported she will also take coal from VOLUNTAS and MARISTELLA. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2301Z/31 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

General.

UPRIGHT.
UTMOST.

Leave patrol as follows to arrive Marsamxett 0730B/4.
UTMOST p.m./2 through 036° 15' 012° 50'.
UPRIGHT p.m./3 through 035° 51' 015° 15'. and 036° 00' 014° 52'. (S.O.(S) Malta, 0959B/31 to UPRIGHT, UTMOST)

/TRIUMPH .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

TRIUMPH. If TRIUMPH has had small expenditure of torpedoes during present patrol intend to divert her to Malta to disembark spares and embark as much 4 inch ammunition as possible. This will only be done however if TRIUMPH can land 6 or more torpedoes and retain 4 for passage from Malta to Alexandria. (Capt.S.I. 10190/31 to Cdr. S.1)

BARHAM. Anticipated BARHAM will be sailed from Suez about 3/6 for Aden en route for Durban to Dock. (C. in C. Med., 10550/31 to C. in C.E.I.)
BARHAM E.T.A. Port Said 11007/1.
(C. in C. Med. 22510/31 to N.O.I.C. Port Said)

FLORIDA II (Italian) bombed. ISARCO located. Following my 1,344,30/5, 3 Blenheims 82 Squadron carrying 4 250 G.P. bombs each detailed to carry out fresh attack against FLORIDA II 31/5. 0700 hours FLORIDA II sighted anchored 4 miles outside Sfax and attacked mast high. 3 direct hits at least and clouds of black smoke. Aircraft machine gunned decks. Opposition machine gun fire from FLORIDA II. No other ships anchored nearby. M/V reported 60 yards away in my 1.344 known to be ISARCO, 5900 tons, and today seen at entrance of Sfax harbour coming out - no destroyer seen. 0752 hours G.M.T. 1 cruiser 34° 52' N. 11° 52' E. course 160° speed not known. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1100/31)

/Lights seen off Gavdo ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

Lights seen off Gavdo.	Aircraft reports seeing flickering lights on water at 2355/30 in a position 070° Gavdo 10. Another was seen at 0100/31 in 3338 N. 26 or 47 20 E. (Capt.O.S. Alexandria, 1111/31 to Med. Fleet, Force I)
Ships at Beirut.	N.O.I.C. Haifa reports that the three submarines and other ships based at Beirut appear bunkered to Capacity and were back at that Port on 28/5. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1112/31 to Admty.)
MAURO CROCE.	Arrived 31/5 from Tarragona. (Barcelona, 1445/31 to M.W.T.)
TAKU.	Alexandria Submarine Sanctuary will be in force 0800 to 1100/1 for TAKU leaving. Exercise Sanctuary will be in force 1100 to 1600/1 in area within 5 miles of position 278° Ras-el-Tin 36. All times G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1526C/31 to Med Fleet Force I)
Malta Air Raid.	Report Malta up to 1600/31/5. All times G.M.T. Night 30/31, 2000 hours, 3 aircraft approached, 2 of which dropped bombs in the sea North of the Island. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/31)
TORBAY.	Is operating in area 038° 00' 024° 35' - 000° - 90 - 114 shown 1/6 subsequently relieving you. (Capt. S.1. 1825C/31 to PARTHIAN)

/BESSARABIA, TRANSILVANIA ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd.)

BESSARABIA. TRANSILVANIA.	Capt. S.1's 1831C/30 addressed Greek submarine NEREUS reports that Roumanian merchant ships BESSARABIA and TRANSILVANIA will be sailing shortly for Beirut with German troops. Request information concerning origin of this report.(D.N.I. 1857B/31. to S.O.I Alexandria, Wolfson, Beyoglu)
VAMPIRE.	Intend following programme for VAMPIRE (Suez to Singapore) (C. in C. Med., 2151C/31 to Admty.)
Proposed Operation.	Chiefs of Staff 123 (1st S.L.2221B/1 to C. in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.
Area in which shipping may be attacked.	My 2353/1. Aircraft, Surface Ships and Submarines may now attack at sight any ship navigating without our permission in extended area given in B.P.B.message 382 subject to restriction in my quoted above. (C. in C. Med. 2329C/31 to Med. Fleet.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete.

Air Protection.

Following received (begins) C.in C. Med. from H.Q., 204 Group. Fighter protection for Capt.(D) 7 on 31/5. 0520 to 0720 - 2 MARYLAND. 0650 to 0850 - 3 Hurricanes. 0700 to 0900 - 3 Beau fighters. 0740 to 0940 - 3 Hurricanes. 0800 to 1000 - 3 Hurricanes, 0805 to 1000 - 3 Hurricanes. 0805 to 1000 - 1 MARYLAND and 3 Hurricanes. 0850 to 1050 - 3 Hurricanes. 0900 to 1100 - 1 MARYLAND and 3 Hurricanes. Arrangements in my A.6 802 G.F. 10, 29/5. Your 1810/30. Fighter protection will be provided as arranged when H.M. Ships are 150 miles out from Alexandria. Request repetition of Capt. (D) 7 and new force meeting (Corrupt group) in my A 831 of 0100 30th. T.O.O. 2123/30 (ends) (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 02310/31 to Capt. D.7.)

D.7 attacked

Enemy aircraft have dropped bombs by position 33.18 N. 26.44 E. course 131° speed 29 knots. (Capt.D.7 0855/31 to Alexandria W/T)
Following received addressed to C.in C. Med. from H.Q. 204 Group. A.873 31/5. Capt. (D) 7 D.F. handed over to F.A.A. at 1100 local time. Five JU.88's and one S.79 shot down, three severely damaged and six forced to jettison bombs. 20 JU.88's attempted to attack Capt. (D) 7 D.F. Air protection being provided for F.O. 15 C. Sqdn. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 15200/31 to Capt. D.7.)

CALCUTTA.
COVENTRY.

CALCUTTA and COVENTRY have been ordered to join you 100 miles from Alexandria at 0800/1 (C. in C. Med. 11430/31 to F.O. 15 C.S. 204 Group)
Cancel my 11430/31. CALCUTTA and COVENTRY have been ordered to be 100 miles from Alexandria at 0800/1 ready to reinforce you if required. They have your route. (C. in C. Med. 21370/31 to F.O. 15 C.S.)

/A/C Report ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on Crete. (contd.)

A/C Report. Following has been read. 2 aeroplanes bearing 330° 23 miles from 32° N. 25° E. (A/C Med., 1805/31)

Air Escort C.S.15. Fulmar section call sign A.F.2 over you 1100. Second Fulmar section call sign M.14 ? and be followed by Tomahawks escorted by Fulmars call sign A.2.M L.C.3 and H. 1 S. (R.A.(A) Med. 2211/31 to C.S.15)

Situation Report 42. Total of troops so far evacuated from Crete about 12,000 with 500 military casualties from air attack on passage. NAPIER and NIZAM have arrived Alexandria with 1509 troops. NAPIER port main circulator out of action and turbine feet fractured by near misses. NAPIER, NIZAM shot down one JU.88 and damaged three more. C.S.15 in PHOEBE, ABDIEL and three destroyers due Sphakia 2359/31. CALCUTTA and COVENTRY have sailed to support C.S.15 1/6 if necessary. Some long range Fighter Protection has been available 30th and 31st resulting 14 enemy aircraft destroyed, 5 damaged and 20 to 25 forced to jettison bombs. This in spite of many fighters failing to make contact with our forces at sea. BARHAM, DIDO, have sailed to make passage of Canal. VALIANT now fit for service. AJAX noon tomorrow 1/6. Western Desert. WATERHEN, VENDETTA, are working service between Tobruk, Mersa Matruh and Alexandria with personnel. (C. in C. Med., 2349/31 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

River Transport to Kut.

Depending success of operation against Baghdad, S.N.O. Persian Gulf informs me Army movements by river towards Kut at very early date contemplated. Plan being prepared and it may be necessary to provide crews for river craft from H.M. ships in area. (C. in C.E.I. 0434Z/31 to Admty.)

GLASGOW. defect.

Port outer L.P. turbine gearing pinion of GLASGOW has two portions of teeth broken away and missing one in each Helix. Maximum speed reduced to 20 knots as a precautionary measure, except in extreme emergency. (C. in C.E.I. 0712Z/31 to Admty.)

Ships proceeding to Abadan.

My 0342/19 my 0848/19 and my 0850/19 (N.T. in W.R.) (none to all addressees) Any active service personnel embarked in lieu of personnel of crews in ships proceeding to Abadan should be placed on ships articles and receive uniform. Close range guns should be dismounted and stowed away before arrival at Abadan but should be available for quick mounting in case of emergency. (C. in C.E.I. 0804Z/31.)

HERON.

N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1108/30 passed to you with reference to his 1405/27. From the point of view of security from air attack I would prefer HERON to go to Massowa on completion of degaussing, but if frequent and urgent demands are likely to continue I am prepared to retain her at Port Sudan. Request your views. (C. in C.E.I. 0812Z/31 to C. in C. Med.)

/Iran .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd.)

Iran. enemy ships using W/T.

Tel. No.44/30. My letter Oct. 18. I am informed (B.2) that Iranian Authorities now have evidence in their hands that German ships at Banda Shapur particularly the HOHENFELS are using their wireless transmitters. (Consul, Colombo, T.H.I. 1025/31 to Teheran)

Iraq Armistice.

Following received from G.O.C. British Troops in Iraq. (Begins) No offensive action will be taken against Iraq troops other than minimum necessary for escort. Armistice asked for and being arranged. (Ends) River patrols are to continue to operate in accordance with existing orders. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1415Z/31 to P.G. Force, C. in C.E.I. Admty.)
Ref. Armistice with Iraqis. I hope any final terms arranged will include a clause which will give us complete control of Iraqi Banks of Shatt-el-Arab for a depth necessary to prevent interference with shipping. The river is as much part of our lines of communication to Palestine etc. as land route. S.N.O. Persian Gulf pass to General Bazrah. (C. in C.E.I.1850Z/31 to Admty.)

OTRANTO. ratings for U.K.

Your 1052Z/30. In view of absence of raider activity on E.I. Stt ion and importance of movement of these ratings, request you will sail OTRANTO for Cape or Durban by coastal route unescorted if no escort is available. C. in C.S.A. is requested to consider distribution of personnel between other ships at Cape or Durban or, alternatively, provision of onward escort. (V.C.N.S. 1626B/31 to C. in C.E.I.)

/LUCIA, EMERALD ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd.)

LUCIA,
EMERALD.

For information (1) At Massawa, epidemic of dengue fever. About 90 cases among Naval Shore Staff and in LUCIA since 3/5. (2) At Basta EMERALD had over 70 cases of malaria. Two deaths reported. Ship now on passage to Singapore for repairs, via Bombay and Colombo. (C. in C.E.I. 1712Z/31 to Admty.)

WS.8 X.
WS.9 A.

A small fast convoy to be known as WS.8 X. and consisting of two important M.T. ships and one Personnel ship, will leave U.K. 31/5 for Middle East. Convoy will be escorted from U.K. to Aden by NEPTUNE, who will not however be available thereafter to reinforce your command. Convoy W.S.9 A consisting of 10 personnel and 5 M.T. ships will be made to leave U.K about 3/6. W.S.9.A.includes 2 ships for India and 1 for F.E. (D.O.D.(f) 1823B/31 to C. in C.E.I.)

MAURITIUS.
SHROPSHIRE.
S.L.78.

MAURITIUS is to relieve SHROPSHIRE on E.I. Station as arranged by C. in C.E.I. and C. in C. S.A. (2) C.in C. S.A. is requested to sail SHROPSHIRE so as to arrive at Freetown in time to escort S.L.78 to U.K. (V.C.N.S. 1945B/31 to C. in C.E.I. C. in C.S.A.)

America and West Indies.

Suspicious Ship.

My 1952Z/30 re TREDINNICKS position unlikely U.S.Warship. U.S. Navy Dept. now reports U.S. Destroyer in this position. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0050Z/31 to Admty.)

/H.X.129 .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

H.X.129. In order to comply with Admty.1955B/29 as H.X.129 has been turned back, please give R/V and time for corvettes. (N.O.I.C. St. John's, N.F. 0221Z/31 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

REPULSE. My 2241Z/29 REPULSE sailed 1759Z/30. (N.O.I.C. St. John's, N.F. 0759Z/31 to Admty.)

FORTH. Should your 1136B/30 to taken as cancelling arrangement made for docking FORTH (Corrupt Group) my 1955B/28 ? (R.A. 5 B.S. 1004B/31 to Admty.)

SAN ADOLFO. R.F.A. SAN ADOLFO was in collision with S.S.D.L. HARPER near Bermuda night 30/31 May. D.L.HARPER has proceeded on her voyage to U.K. (Cdre.I/C Bermuda, 1137Q/31 to Admty.)

ARICA escorted by BARFLEUR. My 1445/29. Following from Navy Dept. From U.S. Naval Observer Martinique 28/5. Capt. Benech, Chief of Staff to Admiral Robert, states WINNIPEG incident is reason for escort being provided for ARICA. (N.A. Washington 1222/31 to Admty.)

Search for supply ship and for PRINZ EUGEN. V.C.N.S. 1328B/31 to SUFFOLK. See Operations Volume.

Suspect French Fishing Vessel. Three masted French Fishing Schooners ANGELUS, QUANCALAY, DUCHATELEY and four Master (?BARC) SIRLOURD reported to have left Bayonne about 12/4 and now to be fishing about 044° to 045° N. 049° 30' to 050° 30' W. Information received that DUCHATELEY is being paid by Germany to report movements of British ships by W/T. (R.A.S. 1433/31 to N.Atlantic Escort Force.)

/Newfoundland ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

Newfoundland Forces, St. John's Base.

Intend following organisations to give effect to Admty.1939B/23. Commodore L.W. Murray as Commodore Commanding Newfoundland Forces on arrival. Capt. C.M.R. Schwert R.N. on loan R.C.N. will retain present appointment as N.O. in C. St. John's, N.F. within commands of C.O. Halifax Atlantic Coast and for the present will command base of St. John's (N.F.) which is herewith commissioned as independent account establishment as H.M.C.S. AVALON. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1441Z/31 to Admty. etc. etc.)
Following from Commodore Murray. (Begins) R.C.N. Corvettes as well as destroyers will be based in Newfoundland H.M.N.S. NIOBE no longer required. Recommend NIOBE be transferred to St. John's, N.F. details of the move to be worked out on my arrival in Ottawa (ends) (C. in C.W.A. 1713B/31 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

FRANZ KLASEN.

Panamanian FRANZ KLAGEN from Campana 9/5 not arrived Caripito. (S.O.I Jamaica 1534R/31 to Admty.)

Dakar Intelligence.

Following from State Dept. from Dakar 30/5. Graded A.1. arrived SAINT LOUIS from Conakry; AISNE and (?TOURS) from Morocco with 6000 tons of coal. Sailed ALICE ROBERT for Conakry. Ships bringing coal have recently brought 2500 tons of munitions. (N.A. Washington 1812/31 to Admty.)

MASSIS (French tanker)

Following from State Dept. from Vichy undated despatches graded B.2:- MASSIS was sold on 10/5, placed under Italian flag at Sete and sailed for Italy 11/5, with 4000 tons petrol. (N.A. Washington, 1823/31 to Admty.)

/French fishing vessels ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

French fishing vessels. My 2133Z/21 not to Admiralty. R.C.N. ships encountering French fishing vessels, sail or steam, outside French territorial waters are to send them into St. John's, N.F. or other convenient ports for search. Ref. St. John's, N.F. 1420Z/30, C.O.A.C. Halifax is to take any action possible to send DUCHATALEY and others into port. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2049Z/31 to C.O.A.C. Halifax)

SUFFOLK. Your 1528B/31. Request SUFFOLK refuel Bermuda (?after) this patrol (?rather) than in Newfoundland, in order to obtain essential spare A/C. (C.S.2. 2241Z/31 to Admty.)

Proposed Visit of C. in C. to Canada. Your 0150B/30. I have instructed R.A.3 to proceed to St. John's, N.F. instead. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2312/31 to Admty.)

ARICA.
BARFLEUR.
(Vichy) VAN KINSBERGEN is shadowing two ships believed to be French ARICA., escorted by French A.M.C. BARFLEUR. Last report 1550 N. 5935 W. at 0130Q/31 course 060° speed 10½ knots. Escort is expected to part company tomorrow 1/6. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2322/31 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

GRAVELINES.

055° 010° W. Unknown Ship torpedoed. (DEPTFORD, 0130B/31 to C. in C.W.A.)
My 0130B. Ship was GRAVELINES straggler from H.X. Convoy. Her back is broken, salvage of foremost half might be possible, her cargo being timber. Have searched for U-Boat without result. Am now collecting survivors, then intend making further search for U-Boat. Request air and surface co-operation. (DEPTFORD, 0510B/31 to C. in C.W.A.)
Proceed in company with all despatch to 056° 00' N. 010° 00' W. where steamship GRAVELINES with timber cargo was torpedoed at 0100. DEPTFORD is standing By. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0826B/31 to SUPERMAN, SEAMAN)
Your 0832B. Present position of GRAVELINES 055° 57' N. 010° 01' W. based on fix at 0030B. (DEPTFORD, 0930B/31 to C. in C.W.A.)
Proceed to assist DEPTFORD to hunt U-boat in 056° 00' N. 010° 00' W. (C. in C.W.A. 0941B/31 to FARNDALE)
Detach ST. KENAN to stand by GRAVELINES torpedoed in 056° 00' N. 010° 00' W. at 0130B/31 tugs are being sent. (C. in C.W.A. 0946B/31 to OTTAWA.)
My 0826B/31, position of S.S. GRAVELINES at 0930B, 55° 57' N. 10° 01' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1158B/31 to SUPERMAN, SEAMAN)
If nothing is found by dark tonight DEPTFORD and FARNDALE return to base, ST. KENAN to stand by GRAVELINES and escort tug SUPERMAN and SEAMAN which have been sent to tow her in. (C. in C.W.A. 1656B/31 to DEPTFORD, FARNDALE.)

CLAN MACDOUGALL.

Following has been read:
SSSS 16.50 N. 25.10 W. torpedoed, CLAN MACDOUGALL. (T.O.R. 0226N/31)
Following has been read:
SSSS de G.L.D. Lands End 16.50 N. 25.10 W. Unknown ship torpedoed. (Liverpool, 0322/31)
Following received from OPNAV:-
CLAN MACDOUGAL torpedoed position 16.50 N. 35.10 W. at 0328 G.M.T. according to report intercepted by coast guard on 4050 kc/s. (Alusna, 0811/31 to Admty.)

/SANGARA ....

MOST SECRET.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd.)

SANGARA. Motor Vessel SANGARA torpedoed at anchor at Accra 2230 G.M.T/30. (C. in C. S.A. 0845N/31 to Admty.)
British 5,445 tons, from Liverpool to Lagos with general cargo, "was torpedoed at 0030/31 while at anchor in Accra Roads" (D.S.635, 1/6)
SANGARA holed while at anchor in Accra Roads. Tug VULCAN today 31/5 to tow to Lagos. Request insurance etc. (Lagos, 0930/31 to Admty.)
Ship reported torpedoed in Roads off Accra if you have left Takoradi keep well clear of area on passage to Lagos. (C. in C.S.A. 1101N/31 to CALENDULA)
My 0845/31. Governor Gold Coast make the report stated explosion at anchor off Accra, survivors stated torpedoed. Fact of torpedoing not established definitely yet. (C. in C.S.A. 1131N/31 to Admty.)

SILVERYEW. British ship SILVERYEW torpedoed 16.42 N. 25.29 W. 0030 G.M.T/30. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 0950/31 to Admty. C.in C.S.A.)

U/B's off St. Vincent. Owing to increase in number of ships calling at St. Vincent, probable that enemy S/M's will be (?waiting) off (? Island). If sailings temporarily suspended will only increase number of ships in harbour. Propose continuing sailings pending further instructions. Probable local Germans and Italians have means of communicating times of departure of ships. If a S/M is in both Western and Eastern Channel almost impossible for a ship to leave St. Vincent unobserved. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1020/31 to C. in C.S.A.)

/N.C.S.O. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

U/B's off St. Vincent. (contd.)

N.C.S.O. St. Vincent thinks submarines will be waiting off Island and likely Germans and Italians have means of communicating departures. CLAN MACDOUGALL torpedoed 0226/31 five miles from either shore in Western Channel shows at least one submarine there. Have no forces to send. Consider most unsafe to coal any ship there at present with submarine sitting in Channel. If essential to call, propose all ships already routed there be told to keep close to land and inside territorial waters on approach. (C. in C.S.A. 2147N/31 to Admty.)

CAIRNDALE (torpedoed 30/5)

Your 1143A/30. From Admiralty information it would appear that CAIRNDALE's course led her directly towards the position in which BRITISH YEOMAN had reported the presence of a U-boat at 0351Z/30. Request you will report if any action was taken to divert her. (V.C.N.S. 2057B/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PAPALEMOS (torpedoed 28/5)

Survivors reported Greek PAPALEMOS torpedoed on 28/5 in approx. 08° 06' N. 16° 18' W. and steamship EMPIRE PROTECTOR torpedoed at 1120 G.M.T./30 in approx. 05° 48' N. 14° 18' W. (C. in C.S.A. 2125N/31 to Admty.)

EMPIRE PROTECTOR (torpedoed 30/5)

EIRE (torpedoed 31/5)

British 5664 tons. Presumed sunk, crew with exception of three men landed Freetown. (D.S.643 9/6)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

If no sign of U-Boat return to base.
(C. in C.W.A. 0040B/31 to LEAMINGTON.)

Off St.Vincent. — See CLAN MACDOUGALL and SILVERYEW torpedoed. (Ships Attacked)

1327. — Following received from GALATEA. At 1327 German unit thought to be U-Boat working up 550 Kcs. made report to consort that query bore 020° from him. As German unit sounded very close and bore 190° from GALATEA, there is thought to be some connection. My pos. 13.37 B was 50° 06' N. 4° 22' W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1419/31 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1506B/31)

Denmark Strait. — U-Boats may be operating in the Denmark Strait and to Northward of Iceland. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1541B/31 to C.S.2., F.O.C.N.P., C. in C.H.F. etc.)

1625. — Am over 1 enemy Submarine in 58.48 N. 18. ? 30 W. (A/C Duty B. 1625/31 to 13 Group H.Q.)

2112. — By D/F at 2112 G.M.T. U-Boat in 50° N. 18° 30' W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2345B/31)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By NOTTS COUNTY. My 2315B, have attacked. Resultant oil patches and air bubbles observed. Contact broken up and lost. Am proceeding to rejoin my convoy. Please investigate position. Depth 900 fathoms. (NOTTS COUNTY, 0035/31 to Admty. etc.)

By A/C 0735. Following has been read. Am investigating suspicious object oil patch in 59.26 N. 18.37 W. (A/C duty E. 0735/31)
Following has been read. My 0735, definite new oil streak moving 115° have attacked. (Liverpool W/T, 0758/31)
My 0758, remaining (? with) O.J.L. not met Z.P.I.93 4 300 5 becoming worse. (Part 2, Duty E., 0824/31 to Whitehall W/T).

Following has been read. Submarines submerged position O.E.C.S.150 3 weather improving 465 submarine submerged 59.20 N. 18.32 W. (Part 2, duty E., 0857/31)

A

By PANDORA 24/5. PANDORA reports at 1137/24 position 41° 04' N. 11° 12' W. sighted large Italian U/B South bound. U/B fired recognition signal of 4 red Very Lights. PANDORA fired 2 rounds of H.E. at 12,000 yards range and U/B dived. At 1153/25 position 44° 32' N. 09° 13' W. sighted south bound U/B. PANDORA dived at once. U/B probably dived simultaneously and -was not seen again. (F.O.S. 1659B/31 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.6.41.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

STURGEON and SEALION have been ordered to try to intercept an enemy warship which appears to be proceeding to La Pallice. TRIDENT, TUNA and RUBIS are to sail Biscay patrol. Air R/C has been arranged.

H.M.T. STORA was destroyed by explosion, apparently of magazine, at Aberdeen today. Sabotage is suspected.

British Air Operations

Owing to bad weather Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today.

Coastal Command carried out the majority of the routine patrols, as well as the special patrol to search for enemy vessels in the Bay of Biscay.

Enemy Air Operations

SS FERNBANK was attacked and damaged at 0005 off Peterhead.

In the attack on Merseyside last night damage was caused at Gladstone Dock and to Naval establishments.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.6.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

Operation B.S. 63.

TEVIOT BANK laid mines in the East Coast Barrier today.

Mines were detonated off Yarmouth.

Liverpool was cleared from 0330B to 1530.

Mediterranean

Malta

Malta harbour was opened at 1100.

Long range fighters.

C. in C. Med. 2031C/1 contains an important note regarding long range fighters.

Western Desert.

A lighter No.10 and a cargo of M.T. have been lost by fire in Tobruk Harbour. Trawlers and schooners operating along the coast have been persistantly attacked by aircraft and have suffered some damage but no known losses yet, other than those already reported.

Syria

Syria is now regarded as enemy occupied territory. All ships proceeding to or from Syria without British authority are to be sunk or sent to a port under British control.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.6.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Evacuation of Crete

Wellingtons last night attacked the aerodromes at Malene and Hepaklion and dropped supplies east of Sphakia for our troops. Continuous fighter patrols were maintained today over Naval forces engaged in the Evacuation.

CALCUTTA was bombed and sank in about 5 minutes this morning in 31° 55' N., 28° 5' E.

The operation of evacuating troops from Crete terminated this evening with the arrival of C.S. 15's force and 3900 troops. As far as can be ascertained the total evacuated are thought to be just over 17,000, of whom some 500 were casualties. 5,500 were left at Sphakia with orders to capitulate and to these must be added up to 2000 from Retimo or in small parties who never reached the south coast. The total left behind was therefore about 7000. The enemy are reported to have shown lack of enterprise.

The evacuation had to be carried out from places which are within easy reach of enemy forces. It was not possible to cover the operations with heavy ships or cruisers. Each load of men had to spend 14 daylight hours at sea in face of extremely heavy scale of air attack.

When the R.A.F. were able to get long range fighters in the air the effect on the enemy was noticeable and a number of attacks were beaten off.

/C. in C. Med....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.6.41.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Evacuation of Crete-Contd.

C. in C. Med. draws particula attention to the performance of the Royal Marines of the M.N.D.D.O. who in the withdrawal from Suda Bay were constituted by General Weston into a rearguard.

East Indies

LEANDER left Aden today, to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

America & West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN intercepted the French SS ARICA in 17° 12' N., 53° 19' W., and is escorting her to Trinidad.

U-Boat Campaign

South Atlantic

On account of submarines off Cape Verde Islands no British or Allied ships are to call there.

Portuguese trawler EXPORTADOR PRIMEIRO is reported to have been sunk by gunfire by an unknown submarine S.W. of Cape St. Vincent at 1500.
2 men were killed.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Loch Fyne Force.

Am ordered to dispose force now in Loch Fyne. Do you concur following arrangements. (F.O. C.T.C. 1151B/1 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

Flag of R.A.1st C.S. in DEVONSHIRE.

Flag of R.A. commanding 1st C.S. Squadron was hoisted in DEVONSHIRE on 31/5. (C.S.1. 1216B/1).

W.A. Escort Forces.

My 1301/30. Para. 20. It is proposed to divide this force into 9 groups which is the minimum number possible to enable the escort scheme to be implemented. For the most economical and efficient operation of this force it will be necessary for one group of 8 ships to be boiler cleaning in Iceland at any given time. Request I may be informed as to whether the necessary facilities for this can be provided observing that power must be available at the boiler cleaning berths and it is considered impracticable for more than four ships to boiler clean alongside GREENWICH even under ideal summer conditions. (C. in C.W.A. 1245B/1).

A/A Protection by Destroyers.

I concur generally with C. in C. Rosyth's 1319/31. These sailings are most carefully considered at Lyness and if the ARCHANGEL had not been ahead of time she would have been to the northward of the danger area at dusk and the bombing would not have occurred. I intend to sail these troop transports by day during the summer months. I also concur with R.A.D.H.F. that if a determined bombing attack is made on the troopship an escort of a destroyer is inadequate. What is required is fighter escort and some fast craft to give close range A/A protection to act as a life boat and give confidence. Delays and difficulties have occurred owing to my having to rely on any H.F. destroyers or Hunt Class which may be available. Sailings are also governed by the state of time, tide, and advance troop train arrangements at Aberdeen in addition to considerations of security on passage. I consider that one or more Hunt Class destroyers or other fast craft should be allocated to this command for troopship and other escort purposes. (A.C.O.S. 1800B/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

REVENGE. — REVENGE is to leave convoy and return to Halifax now. (D.O.D.H. 0713B/1 to REVENGE).

CALIFORNIA.
AURANIA.
MALOJA. — Admiralty's 1955B/29.
Concur CALIFORNIA leaves Clyde for Halifax direct, stores for Iceland being transhipped in Clyde.
AURANIA will be retained for patrol and sailed from Reykjavik for Halifax on 15/6.
(iii) Until arrival MALOJA 19/6 one A.M.C. only will be available for Denmark Straits patrol. (F.O.C.N.P. 1030B/1).

TRIDENT. — (a) Intend to sail TRIDENT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE at 1200B/1st for 270°. Wolf Rock 3 miles. E.T.A. 2200B/2nd. S.O.A. 12 knots.
(b) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. (Capt. S.3. 1137B/1 and 1218B/1).

BIRMINGHAM. — BIRMINGHAM is to proceed passing Hoxa Boom at 0900/2 to Clyde. (C. in C.H.F. 1235B/1).

TUNA.
RUBIS.
BREDA. — Intend sail BREDA at 1600B/1 to R/V with TUNA and RUBIS off Rothesay at 1630B/1 and escort them to 270° Wolf Rock three miles. E.T.A. 1130B/3. S.O.A. 10 knots. (Capt. S.7 1326B/1).
My 1326B/1. BREDA sailed. (Capt. S.7 1602B/1)

AURANIA. — Am taking N.P. 71 as heavy floes and bergy bits are in several places north, on, and south of N(?P) 72 and moving southwards. Weather mostly foggy. (AURANIA 1400B/1).

/MALVERNIAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

MALVERNIAN. Cancel my 1512B/31 (D.O.D.H. 1651B/1).

SAGUENAY. SAGUENAY is to proceed to St. Johns (N.F) at economical speed. Request you detach SAGUENAY as convenient to reach St. Johns (N.F.) with 15% fuel remaining. SAGUENAY to report P.C. and S. and E.T.A. St. Johns (N.F) 24 hours after parting company. (C. in C.W.A. 2313B/1 to C.S.1).

Operations.

Search for PRINZ EUGEN. Intend to proceed at 0600Z/1 ? to comply with Admiralty 1328B. (SUFFOLK 0401Z/1).

Interception of Enemy Surface Unit. A German surface unit appears to be proceeding La Pallice from West. (F.O.S. 0626B/1 to STURGEON)
My 0626B/1. Very approx. position by D/F 45° N. 6° W. at 0610. (F.O.S. 0642B/1 to STURGEON)
My 0626. Proceed to intercept. (F.O.S. 0651B/1 to STURGEON).
D/F bearings at 1910/31 and 0611/1 indicate enemy surface unit approaching Bay Port.
Approx. position at 0611/1 45° 30' N. 6° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0700B/1).
STURGEON after reaching line drawn 250° from 046° N. 002° W. is to proceed to patrol in vicinity 046° N. 2° W.
SEALION proceed to patrol in vicinity 045° 57' N. 2° 35' W.
(C) Object to attack enemy warships larger than 5,000 tons. (F.O.S. 0729B/1, 0811B/1).

/A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of Enemy Surface Unit. (contd).

A. German warship expected to make a Southern Biscay port today and leave again shortly.
B. Sail TRIDENT TUNA RUBIS as soon as possible with the object of attacking and then reporting enemy cruisers and above.
C. Patrol positions will probably be near 45° 30' N. 05° W. Detailed positions will be signalled in due course. (F.O.S. 1004B/1 to S.3).
Adty. 0700B/1. STURGEON and SEALION have been ordered to patrol 25and 50 miles respectively off La Pallice. STURGEON may reach her position to-day and SEALION tomorrow -TRIDENT, TUNA and RUBIS are being sailed to-day for more distant Biscay Patrol in positions to be decided in the light of further intelligence with a view to intercepting enemy outward bound. (FOS 1113B/1/6 to C. in C.H.F. and Plymouth).
My 0729B/1. Enemy not yet located but is probably now in harbour. Dispositions will be ordered later to cover her outward passage. Proceed now to following psoitions:--STURGEON 46° N., 03° 30' W., SEALION 46° 55' N. 04° 40' W. Object as in F.S.C. Two. (F.O.S. 1532B/1 and 1809B/1 to S/M's Area A)

Search for BISMARCK.

Following is track of RAMILLIES when searching for German battleship BISMARCK on 24th and 25th May. Details. (RAMILLIES 0800P /1).

Iceland-Faroes Patrol.

ARETHUSA is to sail from Hvalfiord A.M. 3rd to patrol Iceland - Faroes passage west of the mine barrier.
(11) MANCHESTER is to leave patrol at 2000/2 and return to Scapa. (C. in C.H.F 1052B/1)

/ANGELUS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.6.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

ANGELUS. QUANCALAY. DE CHATELEY. BAT. to be intercepted.

If encountered following French Fishing vessels are to be sent into St. Johns N.F. under armed guard. Three Masted ANGELUS and QUANCALAY. Four Masted BAT. Three Masted DU CHATELEY with auxiliary motor and W/T particularly desired. (V.A.N.P. 1204/1 to Western Patrol).

Denmark Straits Patrol.

Scapa departure R.A. 18th C.S. in EDINBURGH. (A.C.O.S. 1206/1).

Operation EXPLORE.

TIGRIS reports operation EXPLORE unsuccessful on 18/5. Unsuitable on 19th and 20th and abandoned on 21st owing to intense A/S activity. No A/S activity was observed on any other day. (F.O.S. 1511B/1).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Air patrols today. STAB in operation. BERT, STAND and HORNLI ordered but postponed owing to weather. (C. in C.Rosyth 0900/1).
Six A/C of 53 to fly modified 'C' Patrol. A/C to fly in sections of 3 at visibility distance between sections. Time of take-off 1400 hours. Enemy naval force may be closing French Coast at approx. 46° N. with the intention of proceeding to Brest under cover of fighter protection. Enemy fighters may be as far as 50 miles from the coast. A/C to fly as close as possible to the French coast at the north end of patrol opening to 50 miles from coast toward south end. Return track to be as close to French coast as practicable. A/C to report and attack enemy naval force. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1237/1).

/Thames.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.6.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Thames Estuary. Your 1812B/31. Air Ministry concurrence has been obtained under following conditions.
2. Aircraft to operate only under 3000 feet and to be constantly in sight from ground or sea.
3. No balloons to be moved or hauled down.
4. A programme of flying to be communicated in advance to H.Q.11 Group fighter Command Uxbridge giving place and time of departure, route to be followed, duration of practices. (D.T.S.D. 1336B/1 to C. in C. Nore).

M/V and Convoy attacked in Bay of Biscay. At 1215 in 46° 17' N. 03° 32' W. attacked M/V 800-1000 tons - C8 090/5 kts.
At 1230 in 46° 40' N. 03° 38' W. attacked Convoy of 6 M/Vs Co. 090/9 kts.
Comment: Further reports state that no hits were obtained in either of these two attacks. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1730/1).

Enemy Air Activity.

FERNBANK. (Norwegian, 4333 Tons) Now in Aberdeen. Attacked off Peterhead 0005/1 by 3 unidentified A/C. 17 bombs dropped. No direct hits, no casualties. Damages to engines and rudder. (F.C.I.C. Aberdeen 0911/1).

PLETHOS. (Trawler) Reports at 0720/29 255 miles S.E. by S. half S. from Portland Light Iceland she was suddenly attacked from the E-ward by a Heinkel 111 plane. Plane flew low over ship with machine gun firing from the nose and dropped three bombs in quick succession. These fell close over and nearly lifted ship out of the water putting wireless transmitter out of action.

/Plane.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

PLETHOS. (Contd). Plane turned and attacked again from W-ward but was met by fire from ships strip Lewis. She fired this time from her rear gun under the carriage, seriously wounded the Skipper, and slightly wounded the Fireman Plane disappeared to the E-ward. Trawler arrived at Scrabster at 1930/31. (N.C.S.O. Thurso 0935/1).

BUG. (Polish 594) attacked by aircraft believed F.W. 200 at 0830Z/26 in 060° N. 008° 58'W. 12 rounds cannon fired at ship, which sustained neither damage nor casualties. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1101/31).

Mining.

Liverpool. Port of Liverpool closed including QZS 211 and QZS 215 until further notice. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0330B/1).
Cancel my 0330B/1/6. Port of Liverpool now open. My 1149B/26 remains in force. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1530/1).

B.S.63. Departure TEVIOT BANK and HOLDERNESS in company 0750. (F.O. Humber 0845B/1).
Operation B.S.63 completed. (TEVIOT BANK 1655B/1).

P.W.10. Weather permitting carry out orders contained in my 1502B/28/5 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1027B/1 to BEEHIVE).

Departures M.T.B's 22. 34 and 31. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2151B/1).

/Yarmouth.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Yarmouth — L.L. Trawlers detonated red mine in 52° 49' N. 2° 12' 15" E today. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1537B/1).

WESTAVON (Mined 30/5) — Stranded wreck of WESTAVON exists in 51° 36' 33" N. 01° 10' 48" E. (C. in C. Nore 1937/31).

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy in Bay of Biscay. — At 1230 aircraft reported 6 merchant ships in 46° 40' N. 3° 48' W. course 90° 9 knots. (F.O.S. 1314B/1 to S/M's Area A.).

Casualties and Defects.

ST. NECTAN. — My 2302/30. ST. NECTAN developed dynamo defect. Sailing postponed about six days. (C. in C. H.F. 1115/1).

KINGLAVEN. — (British Trawler, 178 Tons) Left Aberdeen 19/3 for fishing grounds. Missing and presumed lost. (D.S. 635).

DORSETSHIRE's 1223/30 and my 1845/30.
DORSETSHIRE is to fit modified cable winding gear and take in hand R.D.F. and such defects as can be completed in six weeks.
2. With the present shortage of cruisers every endeavour must be made to reduce this time. (Deputy Controller 1600B/1 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

/STORA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. (contd).

STORA.
SUMA
THE TOWER.

Report loss of H.M.T. STORA due to explosion of magazine completely destroying fore-part of ship alongside Albert Quay Aberdeen. One A/S rating believed killed. Slight structural damage to adjacent ships - H.M.T. SUMA and H.M.T. THE TOWER. No other casualties (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2152/1);

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 126.

19 British and 4 Allied ships arrived with Rear-Adm. F.B. Watson as Commodore. Cargoes. (D.S. 635, 1/6).

S.C. 31.

Arrived complete, 19 British and 13 allied ships. Cargoes. (D.S., 635, 1/6).

Routes, Cape Verde and Freetown area.

For Commodore. BENDORAN and TOTTENHAM proceeding to Cape should be instructed to pass W. and S. of St. Paul's Rock bunkering if required at a South American Port. No ships are to bunker at St. Vincent, Cape Verde Island. (D.T.D. 1208B/1 to WALKER);
For Commodore. No ships are to bunker at St. Vincent, Cape Verde Island. Instruct CLAN McTAGGART, CLAN MAC BRAYNE and HARPALYCUS proceeding to Cape to pass W. and S. of St. Paul's Rock, bunkering if necessary at a South American Port. (D.T.D. 1211B/1 to BOADICEA).
Freetown area is one of particular danger from U-boat attack at present. In order that routeing in this area may be co-ordinated as a temporary measure N.O.S.O.s at Home are to signal Admiralty for ocean route for every ship bound for a West African port, stating in which convoy a ship of convoy speed will be sailing. (D.T.D. 1955/1 to C. in C.'s W.A., Rosyth).

W.S.8X.

Escorts. (F.O.C.N.A. 1020A/1) See North Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Rocket". My 1625/31/3. Request paras 3, 4, 5 and 7 be considered applicable to operation "ROCKET" with times amended to following. (S.O. Force H., 1007/1 to V.A. Malta).

VICTORIOUS. NEPTUNE. W.S.8X. Admty. 2306B (?)/30 and 1727B/31. VICTORIOUS and NEPTUNE are to leave W.S.8X after dark 5/6 to meet escort of 4 Vees soon after daylight 7/6 approx. position 35° N. 12° 40' W. NEPTUNE on completion of fuelling will sail to rejoin W.S.8X routed East of Canary Isles. (F.O.C.N.A., 1020A/1 to VICTORIOUS, NEPTUNE).

RENOWN. bulges. Your 1947/31. Details of bulge damage. Acceptable for the time being. (S.O. Force H., 1227/1, to Admty.).

MOUNT LYCABETTUS F.O.C.N.A. 0843/28 MOUNT LYCABETTUS in 038° 03' N. 026° 32' W. ordered to steer 23°. Ship should report your position. (NELSON, 1358Z/1 to CATHAY).

SEVERN. My 1010A/30. Cancel para 1. SEVERN sails P.M./1 for Atlantic Patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1524A/1 to C. in C. Med.).

S/M Sancturies. In order to safeguard allied S/Ms which are operating in or on passage on N.A. Station it may be necessary to institute Sanctuaries which will consist of a defined area or lane of given width on either side of expected track of S/M. In these Sanctuaries no S/M either on surface or submerged may be attacked by A/C or surface vessels. Allied S/Ms have been instructed only flare identification may be used to identify them to A/C, and when within Sanctuaries S/Ms are not to use flares when sighting unidentified A/C in order to reduce risk of compromising flares. (F.O.C.N.A. 1528A/1 to N.A. Stn.).

/P.32.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

P;32. As several A/S cruises are in progress in approach to Straits adhere strictly to your route and programme. Inform me if unable to reach position (e) within two hours of 0700A/3. Onward escort will not be provided. (Capt. S.8, 1630A/1 to P.32).

French Convoy. French A/T SENTINELLE escorting S.S. AZROU carrying cattle S.S. ASTREE, ALGERIE, both laden S.S. LIRLOIS light passing Eastwards in territorial waters. (S.O.I. Gib., 2000A/1 to C. in C. Med).
Further convoy westbound p.m./1. see D.O.R 3/6.

South Atlantic.

Sinkings of Ships. Essential that when survivors from ships sunk are picked up, date time and position in which sunk, by whom sunk, and name of ship, shall be signalled at once, or if W/T silence important as soon as possible. Safety of other ships and action against enemy depends on this. (C. in C.S.A. 0001N/1 to S.A. Stn.).

MONTEVIDEO. (German). Under embargo at Rio Grande Do Sul. £4000 damage done to her below water line by a small Argentine vessel which broke adrift. Reported that the damage cannot be made good at that port. (D.S. 635, 1/6).

French Ships. Cancel 211/ G. of 25/5. (T.O.O. 1943N/25/5) Interception of French ships may now be effected anywhere outside neutral territorial waters except West of line Cape Santa Lucia - San Antonio. (C. in C. S.A., 0245N/1 to S.A. Stn).

/EXETER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

EXETER. escort.	Departures 0600/1 DUNCAN and BOREAS to R.V. with EXETER. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1035N/1 to Admty.)
LONDON.	Owing to passengers am only provisioned to 28/6 at reduced rate of consumption. (LONDON, 1036Z/1 to C. in C.S.A);
KINGSTON HILL.	Adty. 1657/27. KINGSTON HILL reported St. Vincent 30/5. Gave destination Freetown. Very important I shall be informed of any diversion. (C. in C.S.A. 1320N/1 to Admty.)
Extra Patrol. W.Africa.	Request if possible PRESIDENT HOUDUCE and VIKINGS may be sailed to arrive Victoria Cameroons by p.m./4. Ships will be required to provide extra patrol working under orders of BRIDGEWATER for about three days. (C.in C S.A., 1441N/1 to B.N.L.O. West Africa);
BALTAVIA.	Orders. (R.A.S.A.D. 1521Z/1 to ASTURIAS).
AIKATERINI T.	Your 1643/30. Pernambuco inform me that Greek AIKATERINI T still at that Port. Expected to sail 3/6 for Capetown. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1521/1 to S.O.I. Capetown).
Shipping Reports.	Your 2100N/30. Subject to your comments, it is proposed, in order to provide you with information at an earlier time, that the daily signal addressed to Ships and Authorities N.A. Station and F.O.C.N.A. giving particulars of merchant ships about to cross 45° N. should be combined with the almost identical daily signal addressed to A.I.G. 121 giving similar information concerning merchant ships about to cross 25°N Request early reply. (D.T.D. 1814B/1 to C. in C.S.A).
SANGRA.	Reported possibly torpedoed at Accra 31/5, CALENDULA to investigate. (See U-Boat Campaign).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

OTTO LEONHARDT.	Left Malaga early on 30/5. First movement since war began.
TIRPITZ (German).	At Malaga, took in fresh provisions on 28/5 and was asking for 40 tons coal. Has been at Malaga since Sept., 1939. Comment:- Activity in these 2 ships may point to a growing shortage of shipping available to the Germans in Mediterranean. (D.S., 635, 1/6).
LARISSA) ITHAKA) NORBURG) (German)	All rumoured to have been sunk. Comment. None of these ships has been reported since they originally passed into the Aegean from Black Sea in middle of May. (D.S. 635, 1/6).
Alexandria Closed.	Port is closed. Cease all movements. (R.A. Alexandria, 0036/1 to Med. Fleet). Restrictions on Movements in Harbour are caneelled. (R.A. Alexandria, 0100C/1 to Med. Fleet).
Malta.	Port is now open. (V.A. Malta 1100/1 to Med. Fleet).
Malta Aircraft.	V.A. Malta's 1148B/29. Fully concur. These Blenheims are doing invaluable work, request all steps be taken to ensure adequate supply of Blenheims and Marylands. (C. in C. Med., 11350/1 to Admty.)
Explosive Paravane.	Italian Explosive Paravane found washed ashore near Port Said. Particulars. (S.B.N.O Suez Canal, 11450/1 to Admty.)
OTTO LEONHARDT (German)	Arrived (Cartagena, 12352/31 to M.W.T.)
Alexandria Raid.	Air raid 2300 to midnight 31/5. Probably five planes, two type D mines each. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1318/1 to C. in C. Med).

/Magnetic.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

Magnetic Mines, Heraklion.

My 18290/30. It is reported that some magnetic mines have been laid off Heraklion. (Capt. S.1., 14510/1 to PERSEUS).

NEREUS.

Leave Patrol Area P.M./4 arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 05000/7 (route) Greek S/M TRITON leaving Alexandria 1800/3 (route). You are to proceed on your motors from Seaward End Great Pass to Harbour. (Capt. S.1, 15010/1 to Greek S/M NEREUS).

Attack on FLORIDA II.

Ref. my 1.346, 31/5 further reports indicate operation 3 Blenheims 82 Sqdn against disabled FLORIDA II carrying munitions concealed by timber most successful. Awaiting confirmation by photo recco. Maryland patrolled area closing Gulf of Taranto nothing seen in spite of 30 miles visibility. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1631/1).

Suez Bunkers.

(?H.M. Ships) sailings from Suez are to bunker only sufficient fuel to reach Aden. (C. in C. Med. 16530/1 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).

Cape Bon minefield.

Following from Consul General, Tangier (begins):- New mine field was laid by Italian warships 20/5, 8/10 miles from Cape Bon for protection of convoys on inside route. French authorities have ordered French air force to repel future British flights in this region. Local Admiral very angry at failure of Italian destroyer to leave Sfax after 36 hours argument. She is reported to have only 8 tons fuel and to await help by sister ships. (Ends). (D.D.I.C. 1704B/1 to C. in C. Med. etc).

Italian Destroyer, Sfax.

/BESSARABIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.6.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General. (contd).

BESSARABIA. TRANSILVANIA.	Your 1857B/31. No information available in Istanbul on origin of report. See my 1118/17/4. On 10/5 use of these 2 Roumanian liners as hospital ships or troop-ships reported still under consideration in Constanza. (S.O.I. Estanbul, 1730/1 to D.N.I)
Enemy M.V's.	Resume of instructions to ships and aircraft on subject of attacks on merchant ships in E. Mediterranean. (C. in C. Med., 1731C/1 to S/M's on Patrol). See Lion Copy.
Personnel.	Estimated following will be sent to U.K. in next few weeks. Number may appear small but casualties in recent operations amount to 100 Officers and 1700 men; and during May 1941, 140 Officers and 1760 men, including all survivors of FIJI and complete crew of IMPERIAL left Suez for U.K. (C. in C. Med., 1831C/31 to Admty.)
Mosul.	Re control. Chiefs of Staff No. 124. (1st. S.L., 2211B/1 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.
Situation Report 43.	(C. in C. Med., 2351/1) Repeated in his 2144/2. q.v.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Evacuation of Crete.

CALCUTTA COVENTRY.	My 11430/31. CALCUTTA and COVENTRY delayed sailing. Left Alexandria 0400. (C. in C. Med. 04310/1 to F.O. 1. C.S.) Request fighters. 031° 31' 028° 05'. (COVENTRY 0925/1 to C. in C. Med.).
CALCUTTA bombed.	CALCUTTA hit, 031° 31' 028° 05'. (COVENTRY, 0927/1 to C. in C. Med.). Returning to Alexandria with CALCUTTA survivors. (COVENTRY 1002/1 to C. in C. Med.)
Alexandria Air Raid.	Operational Summary 356 up to 1200/1/6. Egypt. Night 29/30. 4 or 5 enemy aircraft dropped mines off Alexandria and small bombs of Dekheila Aerodrome. Casualties 3 killed 3 injured.
Benghazi bombed.	Night 30/31. 2 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour bombs bursting on Cathedral and Julian Moles. 1 Wellington missing.
Crete evacuation.	Day 31/5. Throughout day continuous fighter patrols maintained very effectively over H.M. and merchant ships evacuating Empire troops from Crete by Marylands, Blenheims Beaufighters, and Hurricanes, operating from landing grounds in Western Desert. Hurricanes alone made 44 sorties. 5 JU. 88's 1 Cant. 1007 and 1 S.79 destroyed 3 JU.88's probable destroyed. Further 6 enemy aircraft driven off and forced to jettison bombs. 1 Hurricane missing. Blenheim recco. Benghazi reported 1 ship 3500 tons, 1 2750 tons, 3 100 ft. in harbour. 40 enemy aircraft at Derna. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1116/1).
Evacuation.	Report on number (over 17,000, including 500 casualties) and points of interest in operation. (C. in C. Med., 2031/1 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. First half of this signal circulated as 2023/1 in Tiger Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shatt-el-Arab, Orders for Neutral Shipping.	Cancel my 1126/9/5 and substite following. (1) Japanese ships are not allowed to enter Shatt-el-Arab. They may however proceed to any port outside Shatt-el-Arab being informed that they cannot at present be permitted to proceed up the river. (ii) Other neutral ships may proceed at once if they desire to ports in Persian Gulf and up river to Abadan or Khorramshahr to off load Iranian cargo, subject to an undertaking not to go on to Basra unless so permitted. S.N.O. Persian Gulf to be informed of E.T.A. Rooka channel of these ships. (iii) Until further orders no commercial cargo Baghdad Syria or Turkey can be accepted at Basra owing to congestion and risk at port. (C. in C. E.I. 0004Z/1 to E.I. Stn.)
RAMB IV. (Italian)	P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1033/30 to D. of S.T. is passed to you and N.O.I.C. Massowa. Ref. Admty. 1332/11 request confirmation that nothing was said by N.O.I.C. Massowa to give Master RAMB IV impression his ship was returning to Italy immune from seizure. (C. in C.E.I., 0006Z/1 to S.N.O. Red Sea) Confirmed, see 0607Z/4.
RANCHI CARTHAGE.	RANCHI is to leave Durban A.M/3 and proceed to position (X) 031° S. 033° 40' and is then to patrol between position (X) and (Y) 024° S. 038° 20' Speed 12 knots. (ii) My 1226/23. CARTHAGE is to leave patrol to arrive Durban a.m./4. (C. in C.E.I. 0810Z/1 to RANCHI, CARTHAGE).
Convoy S.W.7	To be sailed as soon as ready. (C. in C. E.I., 0816Z/1 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Lighters Malaya.	Risk in allowing unrestricted movement of lighters day and night. (C. in C. China, 0401Z/1 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
Indo-China.	Reply from Decoux re rubber question, etc. (C. in C. China, 0511Z/1 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

Enemy Unit.	Good D/F fix indicates ship in 58° 40' N. 47° 15' W. This position should be searched first. (D.O.D. (H) 0614B/1 to C.S.2).
SAN ADOLFO.	Collision damage 31/5. Temporary repairs being carried out at Bermuda but full repairs estimate 3 to 4 weeks cannot be undertaken owing to other urgent commitments. Intend to retain SAN ADOLFO at Bermuda for oiling H.M. Ships until return of WAR BRAHMIN at end of June, when it is proposed she should proceed to a U.S. port for full repairs. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1042Q/1 to Adty.).
BULOLO ASTURIA.	My ARMUK 210 timed 1652/13/5, refitting yards changed as following. BULOLO to Maryland Drydeck Co. Baltimore. ASTURIAS to Newport. News Shipbuilding Co. Virginia. (B.A.R.M. 1221/1 to Admty).

/TRUANT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

TRUANT. Suspicious ship.	Have sighted smoke of ship estimated course 210° probably coal burning. No sign of overtaking after six hours. My P.C. and S. are 041° 47' N. 044° (? 45') W. 210° 13 knots at 1500Z. Pass to REPULSE and SUFFOLK. C. in C.A.W.I. 1312Q/30 acknowledged. (TRUANT, 1626Z/1 to Admty.) TRUANT's 1626Z/1. It appears unlikely that ship is hostile. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2353B/1 to SUFFOLK, REPULSE).
S.C.33. H.X.130	Ocean escorts S.C.33 DERBYSHIRE proceeding to Iceland with personnel and stores and for patrol. H.X. (?130) RAMILLIES returning (?Halifax) from 035° W. unless otherwise ordered. (F.O.3BS. 1707B/31 to Admty etc).
FORTH.	Your 1004B/31/5. Docking may be carried out but FORTH should be available at St. Johns, N.F. by 15/6. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1739B/1 to R.A.3).
MALAYA.	UKARM 370. B.A.R.Ms 2328/9/5 and Admty. 0213/14/5. When ready for sea request you will sail MALAYA for Halifax where she should work up for about 7 days. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2328B/1 to C. in C.A.W.I).
French S.S. ARICA intercepted.	VAN KINSBERGEN has intercepted ARICA in 017 12N 053 19W and is escorting her to Trinidad by Southerly route. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2356Q/1 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

COLONIAL (torpedoed 27/5) — British, 5108 tons, from Liverpool to Beira with general cargo, sunk by S/M at 0100/27 about 200 miles W.N.W. of Freetown. (D.S. 635, 1/6) Had dispersed from O.B.318. (D.O.R. 31/5).

PAPALEMOS. (torpedoed 28/5) — Greek, 3748 tons, from Rosario to Freetown and U.K. independent, torpedoed 28/5 about 190 miles W. by S. of Freetown. (D.S. 635, 1/6).

EMPIRE PROTECTOR (torpedoed 28/5) — British, 6181 tons, from Port Sudan to Freetown and London, independent, torpedoed at 1320/30 about 180 miles S.S.W. of Freetown. (D.S. 635, 1/6).

SAMSO (torpedoed 31/5) — British, 1494 tons. Belated report states sunk by U/B on 1/5 about 200 miles W. by N of Freetown. She sailed from Bathurst, Gambia, on 29/4 for Freetown. (D.S. 635 1/6)

WANGI WANGI (torpedoed 20/5-24/5) — Dutch 7789 tons. Crew and passengers landed at a Liberian port. Ship reported torpedoed between 20/5 and 24/5 about 200 miles S.S.W. of Freetown. (D.S. 635, 1/6)

ALFRED JONES (torpedoed 1/6) — British 5013 tons. Presumed sunk. Crew landed Freetown. (D.S. 643, 9/6).

GRAVELINES (torpedoed 31/5) — Your 0117/1. ST. KENAN in touch with and waiting for tugs. Chief Officer has been on board agrees with opinion given in my 0510B/31 since which there has been no change in situation. Am returning Base in accordance with your 1658B/31. (DEPTFORD, 0315B/1 to C. in C.W.A).

/TABARISTAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

TABARISTAN. (torpedoed 29/5)	TABARISTAN torpedoed at 2040 G.M.T./29 in position 006° 39'N. 015° 09' W. (C. in C. S.A. 0645N/1 to Admty.)
CLAN MACDOUGALL (torpedoed 31/5)	Ref. I.D. form S.A. para. 10 (1) CLAN MACDOUGALL (2) Cayser Irvine (3) 0315 G.M.T/ 31. 016° 46' N. 025° 25' W. (4) not sighted (5) not seen (6) Not known (7) Sunk (8) Missing 7th engineer and one Lascar, remainder of crew landed St. Vincent. (9) Not seen (10) 2 Torpedoes (11) sunk with ship in metal box. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1145/1 to Admty.).
SANGARA (torpedoed or holed, 31/5).	My 0930/31 Tug has not proceeded. (Dir. of Nigerian Marine. 1200/1 to Admty). Detach CALENDULA at 1000/2 to proceed to Accra, search the area, investigate situation and report. CALENDULA to ask for revelant signals on arrival. (C. in C.S.A. 2137N/1 to BRIDGEWATER) amended 2327N/1.
SILVER YEW (torpedoed 30/5)	Ref. I.D. Form S.A. para. 10 (1) SILVER YEW (2) Silver Line (3) 0030 G.M.T./30 016° 42' N. 025° 29' W. (4) not sighted (5) put searchlight on ship few minutes before she sank. (6) not known (7) sunk (8) missing James Smith Marconi Co. and 2 Chinese. Remainder of Crew and Paym. Lieut. A.R.M. Wonham R.N.R. landed at S. Vincent (9) not seen (10) one torpedo (11) sunk with ship. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1740/1 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

1.6.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2246/31. D/F fix at 2246 G.M.T./31 indicates Italian U/Boat in area round 037° 20' N. 012° 30'W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0349A/1, to N.A. Stn.).

2350/31. Bearings on 5025 kc/s an Italian U-Boat at 2350 G.M.T./31 were Scarborough 212/2, Cupar 205/3, Lands End 210/2. (F.O.C.N.A. -0345A/1 to N.A. Stn.).

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1450B/1).

Cape Verde. U-boats operating off Cape Verde Islands. No British or Allied ship is to call at Cape Verde Islands. (D.T.D. 2310Z/1 to G.B.M.S. 1 and 6A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Northern Approaches.

C. in C.H.F. today sent an important message to the Admiralty regarding the Northern Straits.

The Denmark Straits Patrol is being maintained by a cruiser and A.M.C's.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night on account of bad weather.

Blenheims were despatched today to attack shipping in the Kiel Canal and off north-west Germany and the coast of Norway. Several vessels were attacked in the Kiel Canal, but only one small ship is claimed as a loss. One vessel is reported destroyed off Vestbydd (15 miles N.W. of Lindisnow).

Enemy Air Activity.

Northern Approaches.

S.S. HONTES TROOM reported being machine gunned and bombed at 0521 in 62° 28' N. 14° 42' W. No further details are known. NEWMARKET was unsuccessfully attacked in the same area about the same time.

/East.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

East Coast. PRINCE RUPERT CITY in Convoy E.C. 26 was bombed at 0145 and abandoned in 58° 46' 30" N. 4° 41' 30" E, and sank later.

A.P. Trawler INVERTAY was unsuccessfully attacked while on patrol off Gregness at 0132.

Convoy E.C. 27 was unsuccessfully bombed at 0956 in 55° 13' N. 1° 18' W. (off Blyth).

Hulk THORPEBAY was bombed and damaged off the Tyne whilst in tow.

Convoy F.S.4 was bombed constantly between 1651 and 2319, between Scarborough and Spurn Point. S.S. BEAUMANOIR was hit and sunk. The small tanker PASS OF LENY inward bound from F.S. 4 and H.M.T. TARTAN were attacked and slightly damaged near the Humber L.V. at 2345 and2330 respectively.

Mining.

Operation B.S. 57. PLOVER, working with 4th M.S. Flotilla, laid mines last night in the East coast Barrier.

South Atlantic.

Owing to S/M attacks in the Freetown area -ships are being diverted.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.6.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air Operations. C. in C. Med. 2345B/2 contains a note on the strategical situation in the Central Mediterranean and air operations proposed.

Malta. C. in C. Med. intends to run a shuttle service of S/M's with essential supplies for Malta. He also makes other proposals in 1122C/2.

Libya Operations

Strategical situation. The occupation by the enemy of the entire Greek Archipelago and its many harbours has made it possible for him to base or fuel his ships within easy striking distance of the Libyan-Egyptian coast. Suda Bay for example, is closer to Tobruk than is Alexandria.

Air Reconnaissances. C. in C. Med. today gives details of the air reconnaissances which he requires in future.

Mining 4 F.A.A. Swordfish from Malta last night laid mines on the Tripoli Benghazi route.

Tobruk VENDETTA and WATERHEN continue to run supplies and ammunition into Tobruk during dark hours, and to transport personnel. The enemy shelling of Tobruk and the harbour has been intensified.

Beirut bombed. 5 R.A.F. aircraft bombed and machine gunned a petrol dump at Beirut today. The attack was considered to be ineffective.

Cyprus. M.T.B's 215 and 68 have arrived at Famagusta and are operating from there with 815 Squadron of Swordfish.

/Greek Ships..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.6.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Ship Casualties Crete Operations.

C. in C. Med. reports the following casualties during the Crete operations:-
Beached or destroyed at Suda Bay:
KOS XXIII, WIDNES, 5 M.T.B's, 1 T.L.C., 8 A.L.C., 5 M.L.C.
Destroyed at Sphakia 3 M.L.C.
Missing, presumed sunk on passage, 1 M.L. 1 T.L.C.
Sunk on passage 1 M.L., KOS XXII, SYVERN.
Position of merchant vessels at Suda Bay on evacuation:-
DALESMAN - aground with some M.T. on board.
LOGICIAN - sunk
ARAYBANK, OLNA and KYTHERA, aground badly burnt.
ELEANORA MAERSK - aground, fore part serviceable with oil on board.
IRINI VERNICOS - afloat, engine damaged.
THEMONI - blew up.
ROKOS - aground with cargo of coal on board.
JULIA - afloat but considerably damaged by bombs.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.6.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Greek Ships

C. in C. Med. proposes that AVEROFF, 6 destroyers, one S/M and repair ship should sail to India to refit, leaving 3 T.B.'s 4 S/M's and one accommodation ship at Alexandria. The real reason is low morale and lack of wish to fight. C. in C. Med. reports that he thinks the ships will be of little use to us in the Mediterranean and there is always the fear that they may slip back to Greece when at sea.

Casualties.

BARHAM and DIDO have passed through the Canal to Suez.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

N.W. Approaches — EMPIRE SUNBEAM reported being chased at 1247 in 58° 42' N. 10° 51' W.

Belgian S.S. MOKAMBO in O.B. 329 was torpedoed at 1917B in 56° 38' N. 10° 24' W.

Western Approaches. — Greek S.S. MICHAEL L. EMBIRICOS a straggler from S.C. 32 was torpedoed at 1857 in 48° 50' N. 29° 0' W.

British tanker INVERSUIR is reported to have been torpedoed and shelled at 2345Z in 48° 28' N., 28° 20' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Watch on Northern Straits.	C. in C. H.F. 0043B/2. See Operations Volume.
REPULSE.	C. in C. H.F. 1203B/2. See Operations Volume.
FOWEY HASTINGS.	Admiralty's 1745/26/4. Am prepared to transfer FOWEY to your command on completion of her refit about 12/6 instead of JASON as the latter ship is due for refit shortly. HASTINGS is now refitting and it is intended to transfer her to your command on completion in early July. Do you wish this to be done. (C. in C. Rosyth 1329/2, to C. in C. W.A.)
Fighter Patrols. Trial Recognition Procedure.	Cancel my 1310/31st May. (C. in C. Plymouth 1726/2 to TYNEDALE, etc.)
Reykjavik. Control of harbour.	Recent experience has shown the absolute necessity for final control of Reykjavik Harbour to be in the hands of the F.O.I.C., Every effort has been and is being made by the Naval Authorities co-operating amicably with the Icelandic Harbour Master and Icelandic difficulties and requirements are (? fully) (? understood). These would continue to be given every consideration but recent experience has shown that so long as final control lies with Icelandic Authorities vital naval requirements in emergency may not be met as it is quite impossible to explain these to the Icelandic Authorities. It is anticipated that compulsion would be necessary only in very rare cases but the fact of our having the final authority would entirely alter the situation. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1727/2.)
Force in Loch Fyne.	Your 1002/2/6. Concur in proposed arrangements. (P.S.T.O. West of Scotland 1740B/2.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Londonderry A/A Defences.

Recommend A/A defences of Londonderry town and docks should be increased as soon as possible.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1120B/2.)

Faroes Thorshaven A/A Gun Defences.

Admiralty 2050B/31, A.C.O.S. 1635B/30 and N.O. i/c., Faroes 1106B/21.
2. Four light A.A. approved for Thorshaven from June production.
3. Light A.A. cannot be provided at present for so small a target as H.F./D.F. Station, maximum protection should be given by camouflage and Passive measures.
(D. of L.D. 2022B/2 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

BRIGHTON. ST.MARY'S.

Request you will detach BRIGHTON ST MARY'S to Port Z A at limit of prudent endurance.
(C. in C. W.A., 1438B/2 to NORFOLK.)

SALVONIA.

Cancel previous instructions. Proceed to Londonderry and await further orders keeping steam at ½ hour's notice. Acknowledg
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2200B/2 to SALVONIA.)

Operations.

Search for BISMARCK.

Your 2216/29/5. No interference to W/T or RD/F in KING GEORGE V or NORFOLK. SUFFOLK has been told to report.
(C. in C. H.F. 1105B/2.)
REPULSE 00052/27/5. Two green lights were also seen from KING GEORGE V at 0345B/25/5 when REPULSE was in company. Estimated position 55° 19' N., 33° 29' W.
(C. in C. H.F.1421B/2.)

/Interception.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of Enemy.

(A) On the assumption that the enemy is in Brest take up the following patrol positions by 0500/4 if possible. Proceed with despatch when practicable.

Surface Unit.

Name.	Latitude North.	Longitude West.
STURGEON.	46. 04.	09 13
SEALION.	46 06.	10 06
TRIDENT.	46 38.	09 42
TUNA.	46 46.	10 32
RUBIS.	47 16.	10 03

(B) Object when within 50 miles from patrol position is to attack and then report cruisers and above.(F.O.S. 1106B/2.)
My 1106B.
(a) Estimated times of passing Wolf Rock TRIDENT 2300B/2. RUBIS and TUNA 1200B/3.
Routes.
TRIDENT direct to patrol position.
RUBIS through 48° 04' N., 08° 17' W.
TUNA through 47° 50' N., 07° 50' W.
(b) T.B.R. arranged to cover passage routes and patrol positions.
(F.O.S. 1129B/2.)
Capt. (S) 7's 1326/1. E.T.A. Wolf Rock 3 hours late.
(BREDA 2145/2.)

British Air Activity.

N.A.S. Stornoway to close.

To economise personnel and stores it is intended to close down Naval Air Station Stornoway.
(D.N.A.D. 1239B/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

/827 and...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.6.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

827 and 828 Sqdns. — My 1428/30/4 and 2107B/5/5. 827 and 828 Squadrons are to cease operating under C. in C. Coastal Command by 0800/3. preparatory to embarkation in VICTORIOUS. R.A.N.A.S. is requested to move 827 to a Northern Naval Air Station. These two Squadrons and 809 Squadron should be ready for embarkation by 16/6. (A.C.N.S. M. 1254B/2)

Thames Estuary — Your 1500/1. Request words "or seen" be inserted in para (2) after "ground" vide Admiralty Message 1336B/1. Otherwise agree arrangements proposed. (D.T.S.D. 1313B/2 to Air Ministry)

R/C of Narvik. — Catalina aircraft took off from Sollum Voe 1900/2 to make R/C of Narvik. (C. in C. Rosyth 1940/2)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy E.C. — Help E.C.Convoy 324° Cape Wrath 127 miles, course west, eight knots. (FOXTROT 0135B/2.)

INVERTAY attacked. — (A.P. Trawler) On patrol A.K. Near miss by 3 bombs 140°. Gregness 1 mile at 0132/2. Replied with machine gun fire. No damage, No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0210/2.)

PRINCE RUPERT CITY. — (British, 4749 tons). Bombed 0145. 40 survivors including Master on board, further survivors on unknown merchant ship. Standing by abandoned wreck to investigate possible salvage. Propose proceeding Oban. Position 058° 46' 30" N., 004° 41' 30" W. (ARRAN 0230/2)
PRINCE RUPERT CITY sunk in 40 fathoms. (ARRAN 0645/2.)

/HONTESTROOM.....

War Diary

2.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

HONTESTROOM (French Rescue Ship) Bombed.	AAAA De 62° 28' N., 14° 42' W., machine gunned and bombed. (HONTESTROOM 0521/2) (Port Patrick Radio 0525/2.)
NEWMARKET	My 0650. Aeroplane disappeared to N.W. (NEWMARKET 0711/2)
NORTHERN SKY	My 0730 B/2. One F.W. 200 circled round ship three times just out of range made no attempt to attack. Made off on course (?050° or 283°) (NORTHERN SKY 0741B/2)
Orkneys	3 unidentified A/C plotted approaching Stromness from Westward, height 3000-5000 ft at 0136. Appear to have passed over North side of Flow. Subsequently plotted E. of Deerness, course E. Shore based batteries opened fire. Aircraft were not sighted. Cloud base 1000 feet and unbroken cloud at 2000 ft. A/C not believed to have been into Flow. (A.C.O.S. 0805/2.)
Convoy E.C. 27.	Help Convoy "might" being attacked by enemy aircraft in 55° 13' N., 1° 18' W. (QUANTOCK 0956/2.) Fighters being sent to convoy "might". (Rosyth W/T 1003/2) Three bombs, no hits (QUANTOCK 1005/2.)
EDINBURGH	You have probably been reported by aircraft (D.D.I.C. 0959B/2, to EDINBURGH)

/Liverpool.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Liverpool Air-Raid.

Following air raid damage at Gladstone Dock on night May 31st/June 1st. Details.
3 unexploded bombs fell near torpedo worksho destroyer base and Captain D's offices, and are not yet removed. (S.C.E.Liverpool 1319B/

THORPEBAY.

(British Coal Hulk, 2182 Tons) Near missed by 3 bombs. Received internal damage and returned to Tyne in tow of BANDIT.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1610/2.)

Convoy F.S. Even.

Help ARENA 54° 22' N., 0° 19' W.
(VERSATILE 1651/2.)
My 1651/. One ship hit.
(VERSATILE 1710/2.)
1 Enemy Aircraft shadowing convoy ARENA.
My position 53° 55' N., 0° 19' E.
(VERSATILE 2132/2.)
Help Convoy ARENA position 53° 55' N.,0° 20'
(VERDUN 2150/2.)
Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ARENA position 53° 50' N., 0° 26' E.
(VERSATILE 2152/2.)
Fighters being sent to Convoy ARENA.
(Nore W/T 2209/2.)
1 Aeroplane bearing 090° 3 miles course 180° position 53° 55' N., 0° 20' E.
(VERDUN 2215/2.)
A/C still shadowing.
(VERDUN 2223/2.)
Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy A R E N A position 53° 48' N., 0° 34' E.
(VERSATILE 2319/2.)
Enemy aircraft dropping correct recognitior flares for period 2000 to 0200 M.S.T.
(VERDUN 2340B/2.)

Convoy E.C. Even.

1 Enemy Aircraft shadowing Convoy PADDLE bearing 320° 2 miles position 53° 5' N., 1° 30' E.
(Convoy 2128/2.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.6.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

B.S.57. Operation B.S.57 completed. (PLOVER 0802B/2.)

Mining off Poole. Admiralty Letter M.07680/41 of 20/5 serial number 4. Eastern limit considered to be too close to convoy route. Re Southern limit. (N.O.I.C. Portland 0945B/2.) App.A.

B.S.58. B.S.58 will not be carried out for the present.(C. in C. Nore 1112B/2.)

Floating Mine. S.S. EURYBATES reports floating mine 96° 19 miles Inishtrahull at 2105/31. No description given. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1284B/2.)

Suspected Anti-sweeping device off Harwich. Following from M.S.4 begins. During operation B.S.57 at 0213/2 during sweep to Eastward SUTTON, parted sweep and two small explosions seen and heard in 51° 59.2' N. 2° 29' E. Suspect anti-sweeping device. (C. in C. Nore 1650/ B/2.)

HOPPER BARGE F. (496 Tons) Submerged 350 yards from South Dingle Oil Jetty at Liverpool on 13/5, probably by striking a Mine. Five killed. (D.S.636.)

Enemy Intelligence.

One Destroyer off Belle Ile. SEAWOLF reports. at 1130B/25 one, destroyer in 47° 17' N., 3° 14' W., course 090°, 15 knots. A/S Impulses were heard from several Fishing trawlers near 47° N., 4° W. (F.O.S. 1458B/2.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

HUSSAR. — Repair to number 2 boiler cannot be completed before P.M./15. Intend sailing if possible A.M./16. (HUSSAR 1232/2.)

BENLEDI. — (British, 5943 tons). Now awaiting convoy at Methil has bunker fire. Ship is, proceeding to Leith at 0500/3 to discharge coal. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2324/2.)

U.S.A. Cooperation.

M/V. Challenge Procedure. — U.S. Forces have been informed of challenge procedure between warships and Merchant Ships detailed in Admiralty General Message 640A/25/12 and some U.S. Warships are in possession of S.P. 02182 (2) and may therefore use this procedure. Merchant ships should not at present be informed. (A.C.N.S.F. 2258B/2.)

Shipping & Convoys

E.C. Convoys. A/A Escorts. — In view of sinking of PRINCE RUPERT CITY in E.C.26 by air attack at 0145 to-day 7 mil. N.E. of Cape Wrath, consider additional A/A escorts should remain with E.C. convoys until off Cape Wrath, when this can be arranged without prejudice to A/A protection of W.N. Convoys.
(A.C.O.S., 1327/2, to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Your 1327/2/6. This will be done whenever possible. (C. in C. Rosyth 1901/2 to A.C.O.S.

Cape Verde. — Pass to N.C.S.O's Allied and British ships are not to call at Cape Verde Islands.
(D.T.D. 1343B/2, to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

/Kites off.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Kites off N. Cornish Coast.

C. in C. Plymouth's 2259/30/5. Cannot agree. This procedure would seriously interfere with safety of Coastal Command aircraft to bases in that area.
(H.Q.C.C., 1735/2, to Admty.)

H.G.62.

Under Cdre. Birnie R.N.R., has arrived safely except one ship, missing. 12 British, 1 Allied, 4 neutral. Cargoes.
(D.S.637, 3/6.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MOUNT LYCABETTUS. (Greek) — Proceeding Gibraltar under armed guard routed through (A) 037° 59' N. 024° 39' W. (B) 035° 52' N. 010° 00' W. 8 knots. My position at 0900Z/2, (?037°) 36' N. 026° 45' W. (CATHAY, 0915Z/2 to F.O.C.N.A)

Survivors from STORSTAD, AUTOMEDON, MAIMOA. — Following on board S.S. NEA HELLAS landed Bordeaux 5/2/41 from Norwegian Tanker STORSTAD and subsequently escaped, 4th Engineer ex S.S. AUTOMEDON, 5th Engineer ex S.S. MAIMOA captured by raiders in Indian Ocean. (S.O.I. Gib., 1042A/2 to Admty.)

Submarine P.32 bombed. — Corrupt Signal from P.32 T.O.O. 1045B/31 (Not received in W.R.) infer she has been damaged by bombs and will require docking. She is expected to arrive Gibraltar 3/6. (F.O.C.N.A. 1104A/2 to Admty.)

CANARIAS search for BISMARCK survivors. — Your 1529/23. This was done and Minister seemed to accept point. CANARIAS only found two dead Germans. (N.A. Madrid, 1157/2 to Admty.)

W.S.8.X Escorts. — My 1020A/1. In view of submarine activity, it is important that WIVERN, VANSITTART, WILD SWAN should when detached proceed with utmost despatch consistent with fuel remaining. Admty.1341/23 not to VICTORIOUS or destroyer(s). Amend position Q to read 231° Cape St. Vincent 20 miles. Destroyers report E.T.A. when 100 miles from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1308Z/2 to VICTORIOUS.)

/CAIRNDALE .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.6.1941.
Monday...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CAIRNDALE
BRITISH YEOMAN
(torpedoed 30/5)

Your 2057B/31. CAIRNDALE was not diverted. It was estimated that she should meet escort of two Corvettes at any time after 0630/30. It was obvious that there were several submarines in the area. I considered it of first importance that the R/V should be effected at earliest possible moment and that any attempt at diversions at the last minute would most probably lead to delay. By daylight there were 5 MLS and aircraft reconnaissance in the area where BRITISH YEOMAN was attacked. CAIRNDALE actually met escort shortly after dawn and one aircraft was over her a few minutes before attack. Distance between attacks on CAIRNDALE and BRITISH YEOMAN was about nineteen miles. Further report follows on return of ships concerned. (F.O.C.N.A. 1644A/2 to Admty.)

Suspicious ship, Tangier.

Reliable source reports a warship of undetermined nationality, said to be German, lying close (corrupt group) Rocks east of Cape Spartel at 0300/30. A watch has been arranged. Hope to inform you by W/T if this visit is repeated. (Consul General, Tangier, 1905/2 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

NEA HELLAS.

My 1090B/22/5. para 2. and your 1046/18/5. NEA HELLAS is urgently required in U.K. by 11/6 at latest to be prepared for W.S. convoy As no ocean escort can be provided ship must proceed independently without embarking refugees. Request you will sail her as soon as you can provide local A/S escort. (A.C.N.S.F 1930B/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

LONDON. Leave EAGLE and proceed at 25 knots to S.W. Further instructions follow. (D.O.D. (F) 0131B/2 to LONDON)

MARGUERITE
EXETER. Departure 1800/1 MARGUERITE to R.V. with EXETER. (S.O.1 Freetown, 0455N/2 to Admty.)

NATAL.
WINDHUK.
TEBRO. (B.3) German ships NATAL and WINDHUK Italian ship TEBRO and ships from Rio de Janeiro are to sail Wednesday 4/6. (N.C.S.O. Santos 1110/2 S.O.I. Montevideo, 1456Z/2 to R.A.S.A.D.)

ALFRED JONES.
SIRE. Overdue Shipping. ALFRED JONES due Freetown 30/5 from Mersey 8/5, and SIRE due Freetown 1/6 from Las Palmas 25/5 have not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1152N/2 to Admty.)

BRUSH. Overdue shipping. Norwegian BRUSH Trinidad departure 24/5 due Para 30/5 has not arrived. (S.O.I Freetown, 1154N/2 to Admty.)

Takoradi A/S
Patrols. C. in C. South Atlantic 1345/1. Takoradi signal in reply (Begins) A.451 1/6. In view of acute shortage of pilots for ferrying aircraft to Middle East, A/S patrols on Blenheim aircraft allocated for operations must be limited for time being. On receipt of news of sinking of vessel off Accra on night of 30/31, security patrols were carried out at dawn and dusk on 31/5 (area) Understand that trained operational crews for 3 operational Blenheims are being despatched from U.K. On arrival we will be in a position to carry out patrols at more frequent intervals. To ensure full co-operation with Navy request information of Navy surface craft operating in vicinity. (ends) (Takoradi, 1350/2 to H.Q., M.E., Air Ministry)

/BERGENSFIORD .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

BERGENSFIORD. My 2243/30. BERGENSFIORD (?expected to arrive) Victoria 5/6. It is imperative owing to danger of U-Boats that embarkation at Victoria shall be completed in shortest time possible. (C. in C.S.A. 1419N/2 to Milwestaf.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Master states his orders do not include Red Sea. In view of ships departure from Durban for Suez with 4,000 troops having been arranged for 7/6 request revised orders may be telegraphed immediately. Note orders referred to are from ship's owners. (P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1717B/2 to D.of S.T.) Reply: 1543B/3.

Shipping Diversion. Your 1814/1/6. I agree propose to divert ships north of S.A. Station limit 20° 47' N. for known dangers south of this if required, but not to divert any ships south of this limit for dangers north of it unless instructed otherwise. (C. in C.S.A.1743N/2 to Admty.)

Air Sqdns. for Bathurst. S.S.DUMANA as base ships. X. 802. 2/6. Decided to reinforce R.A.F. in West Africa. Details. (Air Ministry, 1810/2 to R.A.F. Bathurst)

Routes. Takoradi. Your 1957 N/21 para. 2. It is not considered practicable to co-ordinate routes to Takoradi given by N.C.S.O's from widely dispersed ports. Preferable you should re-route these ships as situation demands. To facilitate this, N.C.S.O's are being ordered to give a final lettered position on Ocean route within 50 miles of port of destination on account of known insecurity of Merchant Navy recoding Tables. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2055B/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

/CONSTANTIA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd.)

CONSTANTIA, SHROPSHIRE, PRETORIA CASTLE, KRONIA, CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE, ASTURIAS.

Your 1118/2 not to all addressees. CONSTANTIA is to be sailed for Freetown as convenient (route) to Freetown. SHROPSHIRE may be required to patrol on passage but should arrive Freetown by 15/6 in any case. PRETORIA CASTLE and KRONIA are to proceed by direct route to Freetown. CILICIA is to meet and take over escort from (? PRETORIA CASTLE) in position 024° 30' S. 012° 00' W. at 0800B/6. PRETORIA CASTLE then to patrol K1. CARNARVON CASTLE is to leave patrol on 5/6 and proceed to L32 to relieve ASTURIAS. (C. in C.S.A. 2159N/2 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

WINDHUK.

M.F.A. has today assured Ambassador that he will continue to do his utmost to prevent WINDHUK sailing. Should he be forced to consent sailing he would give us a hint in advance. S.O. (I) Freetown convey to C. in C.S.A. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 2220Z/2 to Admty.) List of ships at Rio (D.S.637)

ASTURIAS.

Your 2003B/6. Request early information to which port in U.S.A. ASTURIAS is to proceed. (C. in C.S.A. 2301N/2 to Admty.)

CRITON. (French)

Your 1948/29. Directions in My 2323/16/5 concerning requisitioning of CRITON, token prize crew and French flag still apply. You should explain to volunteers that they will be given early opportunity of employment in French ship flying French flag. (Head of M. 2332B/2 to C. in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

OTTO LEONHARDT. (German) — Left Malaga and arrived Cartagena 30/5. (D.S. 636, 2/6)

TZAR FERDINAND. (Bulgarian) — Passed Istanbul at 0905/1 for Salonica with 1500 tons grain. (D.S. 636, 2/6)

Ships in Turkish Ports. — Reported Bulgarian and Greek ships in Turkish ports have been chartered by German Govt. to operate under their own flags, and there is every indication they will be used for military purposes. (D.S. 636, 2/6)

Importance of Air Reconnaissance. — Highest importance that our air reconnaissance of Central Mediterranean, Italian bases and Greek ports should be as extensive and accurate as possible. Proposals. (C. in C. Med. 00260/2 to A.O. C. in C.M.E.) see Lion Copy.

Swordfish Minelaying operation. — H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 0630/2 see Mediterranean Volume. H.Q. R.A.F. Malta I. 350 2/6. Request I may be informed why this operation was undertaken without reference to me, and who authorised operation. These dispositions will undoubtedly hamper operations of submarines between Tripoli and Benghazi. No further operations of this nature are to be carried out without my approval. (C. in C. Med., 22260/2 to N.O.I.C. Malta) Reply: V.A. Malta 1445B/3, see Mediterranean Volume.

Air Report. — Operational Summary No.357 up to 1200 hrs. 2/6/41. 1/6. Maryland reconnaissance reported no shipping at sea between Crete and Melos. Night 31/5 to 1/6. 2 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi starting 2 large fires at Base of Cathedral Mole and 1 small fire at Juliana Point. 1/6. Continuous fighter patrols maintained throughout day over H.M. ships evacuating our forces from Crete to Egypt by Hurricanes, Beau fighters, Marylands, and Blenheims operating from Western Desert Landing Grounds. Hurricanes made 35 sorties. During day 14 Ju 87's escorted by fighters dive bombed A.A. positions Tobruk Harbour damaging 1 gun. 2 enemy destroyed by A.A. fire. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.1051/2)

Benghazi bombed

Crete Evacuation.

Tobruk bombed.

/Breda guns ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd.)

Breda guns. — Your 1043B/17. Stocks of captured Breda ammunition available for all services and Middle East view that productions should not proceed are contained in Mid. East SD/ 69417 of 1/6 to War Office. Full details of material captured in East Africa are not likely to be available for some time but it is evident that numbers of Breda guns will be much below our expectations. (C. in C. Med. 1100C/2 to Admty.)

LEANDER. — N.O.I.C. Aden's 1511/1 (N.T. in W.R.) Request you will sail LEANDER for Alexandria as soon as possible. (C. in C. Med. 1120C/2 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal)

Malta Supplies. — Proposals. (C. in C. Med., 1122C/2 to Admty.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Iraq Armistice. — Chiefs of Staff No.125 to C. in C. Med. and M.E. Terms of Armistice with Iraqis signed by Clark are so far short of those recommended by you and by us. Can you explain and say if you consider that the terms as now signed give us the military facilities we require ? (1st S.L. 1236B/2 to C. in C. Med.)

UNIQUE. — Leave patrol as requisite through 035° 25' 013° 00' and 035° 40' 014° 06' to arrive off Marsamxett 0640B/5 URSULA due to arrive same time through 035° 00' 013° 20' and 035° 51' 014° 15'. (Cdr. S.1. 1241B/2 to UNIQUE.)

Suez Canal, obstructions removed. — My 1917/28/4 to C. in C. Med. only. Successful shifting from Channel of Wreck of HOPPER 34 yesterday 1/6 afforded passage for Capital ships. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 1259C/2 to C. in C. Med.)

/My 1259C/2.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal obstructions removed. (contd.)	My 1259C/2. Canal Company do not envisage any further salvage operation so that following wrecks will remain in Canal - (a) stern of RANEE at Kharag 83.6. (b) H.M. HOPPER 39 at Kharag 134.7. (c) H.M.S. SARNA at Kharag 138.5. (d) Canal Company HOPPER 34 at Kharag 138.7. (e) S.S. AGHIOSGEOS at Kharag 141.8. (d) and (e) causing difficulty to shipping. Large ships can pass only at high water and passage at night is inadvisable. Consider it advisable (d) and (e) should be removed but Canal Company state work is beyond their resources. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1733C/2 to C. in C. Med.)
BESSARABIA. TRANSILVANIA REGELE CAROL DACIA.	My 1730/1. BESSARABIA, TRANSILVANIA, expected to resume on Constanza - Istanbul service, and REGELE CAROL, DACIA when taken off it may be taken over by German crews. Graded B.3. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1508/2 to S.O.I. Alexandria)
TRIUMPH. TAKU.	Keep to the west of 017° 00' from noon/5 at which time TAKU will enter patrol area east of 017° 00' and south of 032° 45' to operate off Benghazi. My 1019C/31 not to TAKU is cancelled, you will return to Alexandria direct. (Capt. S.1. 1521C/2 to TRIUMPH)
PARTHIAN TORBAY.	Leave patrol as necessary to pass east of Strati Island about ?2300C/5 thence east of Spitfire Bank and Naxes through Scarpanto Strait then direct to arrive at Alexandria Sanctuary 0500C/10. TORBAY has been ordered to leave present area p.m./5 keeping West of 025° 00' and to pass West of Strati Island at 2300C/5 thence proceeding north of Lemnos to occupy area vacated by you. (Capt. S.1. 1603C/2 to PARTHIAN)

/Palermo Shipping .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd.)

Palermo Shipping.	Information received 15 vessels loading Palermo sailing 6/6 for North Africa. Graded C.3. (D.D.I.C. 1657B/2 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
Suez Canal and Red Sea.	Probable Government Mission will be sent to consider immediate measures necessary to improve Port and Transport facilities in Suez Canal and Red Sea areas. Essential to attach to the Mission a Naval Officer with knowledge of the ports etc. C. in C. Med. after consultation with C. in C.E.I. requested to report. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1855B/2 to C. in C. Med.)
DIDO.	Your 1102Z/1 not to Admiralty. (?DIDO) is in need of extensive repairs. Destination is under consideration of Admiralty. (C. in C. Med. 1916C/2 to C. in C.E.I.)
Situation Report 43.	Following is a repetition of my 2351/1. Crete operation. See my 2031/1. All ships have returned to Alexandria. C.S. 15 Force was successfully protected by fighters. 2. Western Desert. One A lighter and cargo of MT lost by fire in Tobruk Harbour. Trawlers and schooners operating along coast have been persistently attacked by aircraft and have suffered some damage but no known losses yet other than those already reported. 3. Alexandria. Mines were laid south of Great Pass in raid 2300/31. Port is open. 4. Malta. Blenheims operated as in H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1100/31. Ends. (C. in C. Med. 2144/2 to Admty.)
Operations "Rocket" "Tracer"	Suggestion for similar demonstrations. (C. in C. Med. 2345B/2 to Admty. See Mediterranean Volume.

/Small Craft Suda Bay..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd.)

Small Craft ex Suda Bay.

Following is position small craft ex Suda Bay.
(i) Arrived Alexandria KOS XXI, LANNER, M.L. 4052.
(ii) Beached or destroyed at Suda Bay, KOS XXIII WIDNES, M.T.B.67, 213, 214, 216, 217, T.L.C. A.16, 8 A.L.C, 5 M.L.C.
(iii) Destroyed at Sphakia, three M.L.C.
(iv) Missing presumed sunk on passage M.L. 1030, T.L.C. A.C.A. (?20)
(v) Sunk on passage M.L.1011. KOS XXII, SYVERN. (C. in C. Med. 2220C/2 to Admty.)

M.V's lost at Suda Bay.

Following is position merchant vessels at Suda Bay on evacuation:-
DALESMAN - Aground with some M.T. on board.
LOGICIAN - sunk.
ARAYBANK - Aground badly burnt.
ELEANORA MAERSK - Aground fore part serviceable with oil on board.
OLNA - Aground badly burnt.
IRINI VERNICOS - Afloat engine damaged.
KYTHERA - Afloat badly burnt out.
THEMONI - Blew up.
ROKOS - Aground with cargo coal on board.
JULIA - Afloat but considerably damaged by bombs. (C. in C. Med. 2220C/2 to Admty.)

Situation Report 44.

(My 2351/1 was Situation Report 43)
CALCUTTA was hit by two bombs at 0945/1 and sunk in about five minutes. Attack was by two JU.88 diving out of sun. Position 51.55 N. 28.05 E.
2. Western Desert. VENDETTA and WATERHEN continue to run supplies and ammunition into Tobruk during dark hours also transporting personnel. Enemy shelling of Tobruk and harbour has been intensified.
3. Cyprus. M.T.B. 215 and 68 have arrived Famagusta and are operating from there with 815 Sqdn. of Swordfish.
4. Canal Area. BARHAM and DIDO have passed through Canal to Suez. (C. in C. Med. 2356C/2 to Admty.)

/Greek Warships .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd.)

Greek Warships. Greek proposal to refit in India. Suggestions. (C. in C. Med. 2358C/2 to Admty.) See Med. Vol.

East Indies.

HERMES
Force T. Your 0434Z/31. The importance of HERMES being employed on anti-raider operations as soon as possible must be borne in mind. Report when it is expected she will be released. (1st S.L. 0050B/2 to C. in C.E.I) Admty.0050/2. Release of Force T. from present duties under active discussion with British Commander for some time, but aircraft and other facilities the Forces could provide until reinforcements arrived justified it remaining there. With signing of Armistice, it may still be desirable to base two or three Swordfish ashore to assist the R.A.F. in reconnaissance of Shatt-el-Arab, but I shall avoid this if possible. Subject to concurrence of General Basra and A.O.C. Iraq, I intend to withdraw Force T. about 7/6 when F.A.A. stores for HERMES now on way will have been received by her. Intend HERMES shall dock on arrival at Colombo. (C. in C.E.I. 0458Z/2 to Admty.)

ISLAMI
ANTENOR. S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) 1151/31 to C. in C. E.I. only. Troopship ISLAMI will leave Karachi 9/6 for Basra being routed direct to Gulf Oman and thence as in my 1236/2 amended by my 1206/19. ANTENOR is to escort from Karachi for about 12 hours and is to part company from ISLAMI to arrive Karachi p.m.10. (C. in C.E.I. 0746Z/2 to ANTENOR etc.)

/CARSO .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd.)

CARSO. (Italian) — N.O.I.C. Kismayu reports CARSO refloated. Semi-permanent repairs being effected to Hull damage which will make ship seaworthy. Endeavour being made to repair engine defects but towage prospects also being investigated. Estimated undamaged cargo 1000 tons cotton & 3000 tons Manganese shellite in good order. (C. in C.E.I. 1012Z/2 to Admty.)

Minesweeping. — In Red Sea and Persian Gulf. Skids and towing vessels - dispositions. Other measures. (C. in C.E.I., 1442Z/2 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

H.X.129
H.X.130
H.X.131
Escorts. — My 1953B/29. Request names of corvettes escorting H.X.129 and H.X.130 may be signalled. Owing to recent operations escort vessels on passage are unlikely to arrive in time for H.X.131 and it is suggested that if no other corvettes are available then the corvettes that are now escorting H.X.129 should be ordered to return to St. Johns in time to refuel and escort H.X.131 from R/V in 45° W. to Icelandic R/V. Ships would then proceed to Iceland and refuel returning to St. Johns about 2/7. (D.O.D.(H) 1057B/2, amended 1249B/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

BISHOPDALE.
DIOMEDE. — Ref. 2308B/30. (1) Oiler BISHOPDALE arriving R/V F.O.G.O. at 0800 G.M.T./6. Am proceeding to comply with last sentence of C. in C.A.& W.I. 2202Q/1. (DIOMEDE, 1401Z/2 to Force F.)

/Newfoundland Force. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

Newfoundland Force.	My 1428B/2. OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, RAMSEY, RICHMOND will be detached from Convoy and will proceed to St. John's, N.F. to join Newfoundland escort force. (C. in C.W.A. 1433B/2 to N.O.I.C.'s, Liverpool, Greenock)
Martinique A/C Ban.	Following from Navy Dept. Graded A.O. From U.S. Naval Observer Martinique 31/5 (?) U.S. Consul has been informed in writing by High Commissioner that no aircraft will be permitted to approach within 3 miles of Island of Martinque excepting planes of Pan American Airways and U.S. Naval Mail Planes. These planes must appear during day only and must approach from the sea. Approach must be in a sector bearing from (?78°) to 90° on Pointe Des Negres. Planes must fly at less than 300 metres over Pointe Des Negres. (N.A. Washington, 1520/2 to Admty.)
FRANZ KLASEN.	My 1534 R/31 FRANZ KLASEN arrived Caripito 31/5. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1532/2 to Admty. etc.)
F.O.S.B.S.	Due to transport difficulties in Newfoundland am proceeding St. John's, N.F. in BUXTON expecting to arrive 1000Z/4. Signals requiring my personal attention will be passed to me from Halifax. (F.O.S.B.S. 1614P/2 to Admty.)
Greek Representative.	Your 1339/13. Greek authorities have appointed Capt. George Mavroleon as their official representative. He is proceeding from New York to Halifax immediately. (Head of M. 1624B/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Belle Isle.	Request probable date of opening of Belle Isle Straits passage. (D.T.D.1914B/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

U.S.11 — My 00342/27. Anticipated date of arrival of U.S.11 Trincomalee. (A.C.N.B. 03192/2 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.6.1941
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

GRAVELINES
(Torpedoed 31/5)

Arrived 1059 DEPTFORD with survivors.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1230/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE SUNBEAM

Following has been read. SSSS 58.52 N., 10.40 W., chased. (Lyness, 1247/2.)
SSSS de GPFS, EMPIRE SUNBEAM. Corrected position 58.42 N., 10.51 W., chased. (Lyness, 1303/2.)

CAIRNDALE
(Torpedoed 30/5)

Reply to Admty. 2057B/31 as to why not diverted. (F.O.C.N.A. 1644A/2 to Admty.)
See North Atlantic.

MICHAEL E

Received 1903 G.M.T. 500 KCS DE GLD. 48.50 N 29.00 W., torpedoed MICHAEL E.1857.
(Burnham on Sea Radio, no T.O.O./2) (Lands End Radio, 1857/2)
W.D. Note:- D.S. 637, 3/6 and D.O.R. 3/6 gives name of this ship as MICHAEL L. EMBIRICOS 5202 tons, a straggler from convoy O.B. 32 from St. John N.B. to Barry Roads. Now known to be British MICHAEL E 7628 tons Ex. O.B. 327. (D.S. 643 9/6)
Proceed to assistance of MICHAEL torpedoed 48° 50' N., 29° 00' W., at 1857/2. (C. in C. W.A. 2159B/2 to COLUMBIA, NIAGARA, ST. CLAIR)
Your 2159/2 COLUMBIA, NIAGARA, ST. CLAIR proceed at 15 knots. Expects to arrive 1300Z/3. Latitude 52.25 Longitude 26.45 (Weather) (COLUMBIA, 2201Z/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOKAMBO

Torpedoed in position 056° 38' N., 010° 24' W (WANDERER, 1917B/2 to C. in C. W.A.)
Belgian, 4996 tons, from Liverpool to Freetown in convoy O.B. 329, (D.S. 637, 3/6) (D.O.R. 3/6) W.D. Note:- Following had previously been made to WANDERER:- Alter to port so as to be 20 miles to North of line A.B. returning to lines A.B. after dark (C. in C. W.A. 1540B/2 to WANDERER)

/My 1917B.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.6.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MOKAMBO-Contd.

My 1917B. MOKAMBO Hit forward and well afloat. Position 056° 38' N., 010° 24' W. PERIWINKLE attacked periscope but lost contact. Am sweeping out area. My 1917 B also repeated N.O.I.C. Greenock. (WANDERER, 2007B/2 to C. in C. W.A.) WANDERER, ESPERANCE BAY, PERIWINKLE attacking firm contact, inconclusive as yet. MOKAMBO ready to proceed to Greenock under own steam as soon as escort is available. No. 1 hold flooded bulkhead holding. (WANDERER, 2109B/2 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 2007B/2 report if tugs are required. (C. in C. W.A. 2206B/2 to WANDERER) Detail two corvettes to proceed forthwith to escort MOKAMBO damaged by torpedo in 056° 38' N., 010° 24' W., at 1917B/2 to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 2302B/2 to READING, GENTIAN)

EMPIRE PROTECTOR (Torpedoed 30/5)

569. My 2125/31/5. N.C.S.I. 69.
(A) EMPIRE PROTECTOR.
(B) 30/5. 1120 G.M.T. in 06.00 N., 14.25 W.
(C) Locked in master's safe.
(D) M.N. code and decode and recording table No. 13 were in rack in chart room.
(E) No. 2000 fathoms.
(F) Submarine did not enter zone where ship sank in water thick with oil.
(G) Master. (H) Chart room covered with oil and full of impenetrable black smoke. Ship sunk by two torpedoes. Four believed killed, remainder saved. Submarine probably U.37 class.
(C. in C. S.A. 2034N/2, to Admty.)

PAPALEMOS (Torpedoed 28/5)

My 2125/31/5. M.O.S.I.69.
(A) Greek PAPALEMOS.
(B) 28/5 1300 G.M.T. in 08.06 N., 16.18W.
(C) and (D) Recoding Table No 11 burned. M.N. decode left in W/T Office. Remainder dumped.
(E) Yes F.M. 2400 fathoms
(F) Submarine did not close ship.
(G) Greek Master and British W/T officer. Ship was hit by one torpedo and sunk by gunfire. S/M probably U.37 class. One killed remainder saved.
(C. in C. S.A. 2036N/2 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2042. D/F fixed at 2042 G.M.T/1 indicates Italian U-boat in area round 036° 00' N. 010° 50' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0045A/2 to N.A. Stn.)

Iceland. Admty. 1541B/31 referring to U-Boats North of Iceland. Bearing 051° third class from Reykjavik coast (?20) 15/30 was not sensed. No means of indicating sense is provided in D/F code. (S.O.I. Iceland, 0931/2 to Admty.)

1430/1. Trawler CALIPH reports when 5 miles S. of Hook Point, Waterford at 1430/1 sighting a periscope 2 miles S.S.W. Conning Tower then appeared but was lost after ten minutes in haze. CALIPH was then ordered into Dunmore by Contraband Officer (grade A.3.) (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1215/2 to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1447B/2)

Submarines Attacked.

By PERIWINKLE WANDERER etc. See Ships Attached, HOKANBO.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Air R/C today showed that the TIRPITZ had left Kiel since 30/5.

British Air Operations.

Admty. 1237B/3 gives details of the air Reconnaissances which will be carried out to give information of any enemy warships sailing from Germany northwards.

2 Fighter Command aircraft (one armed with cannon) on Channel patrol attacked two trawlers west of Dunkerque early this morning and report that one of them was left sinking.

6 Blenheims of Coastal Command attacked shipping at St. Nazaire last night. Results were not seen. Various aircraft was despatched to attack shipping off the French coast from Calais to Cherbourg. No particular success is claimed.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

German aircraft flew over Jan Mayen yesterday and again at 0755 today.

An unknown vessel reported at 2311 being attacked 7 or 8 miles S.S.E. of Noss Head.

ROYAL FUSILIER was bombed at 0029/3[illegible] while in Convoy F.N. 74, in 55° 22' N 1° 21' W and sank later in tow.

H.M.S. FRANKLIN (survey Ship) arrived in the Humber at 2035 with minor damage from air attack. It is reported that, with DRAUG, she was bombed off the Wash.

The Falmouth to Dartmouth convoy was attacked at 1800 off Start Point. No details are known.

S.S. DENNIS ROSE was attacked today in the swept channel off Dartmouth and received superficial damage.

H.M.Y. BREDA reported being attacked off Lands End at 1735. No damage is reported.

Mining.

The Humber was closed from 0124B to 0929B and the Tyne from 0015 to 1245.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven and cut off Falmouth.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Owing to U-Boat activity in the Freetown area the A/S vessels are to be reinforced immediately. Details are in Admty. 2359B/3.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

8 enemy aircraft attempted to raid the island between 1926 and 2240. Most of the bombs fell in the sea. No damage or casualties occurred.

Tripoli Convoy attacked.

At 0727 a Maryland on patrol attacked without decisive results a convoy of 6 merchant ships screened by 6 destroyers in 36° 15' N 12° 15' E steering a southerly course. Five Blenheims attacked the convoy again this afternoon; one 8,000 ton ship was hit and blew up damaging other ships in the convoy which were very close. A second ship of 5,000 tons was also hit with 4 bombs and was left on fire. One of our aircraft was hit by debris from ship which blew up, and crashed in the sea. Five F.A.A. Swordfish were despatched tonight to carry out a further attack on the convoy, but failed to make contact.

Western Desert.

C. in C. Med., reports that 2 air attacks were made in AUCKLAND north of Tobruk; results are not known. The enemy has numerical fighter aircraft superiority in the area, and fighter protection for our ships operating off the coast is meagre. Schooner AGIOS PAN TELEMON is overdue and believed lost by air attack.

Lampedusa.

UNIQUE torpedoed and sank a laden 1,000 ton merchant vessel in Lampedusa Harbour at 0825 this morning.

Cyprus.

M.T.B. 215 at 0015 today intercepted in 35° 56' N 32° 52' E an auxiliary schooner purporting to be Turkish IKI KARDESHLER. The ship was set on fire and the resulting very heavy explosion corroborates other evidence that she was carrying petrol and had false papers.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Admty 1135B/3 to C. in C. A.W.I. contains information referring to the passing of information by the U.S. authorities.

Newfoundland escort force.

An increase in the strength of the escort force working from St. Johns as proposed on 23/5, is proposed in Admty 1401B/3.

U-Boat Campaign.

Atlantic.

The Admiralty today issued fresh orders regarding the routeing of shipping. A large area is barred to shipping.

Western Approaches.

Dutch S.S. KIBERGEN in O.B.327 was torpedoed this morning in 46° 2' N 25° 6' W.

An unknown ship reported being chased by a S/M at 1320 G.M.T. in 48° 40' N 29° 30' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Watch on Northern Straits.

Your 0043B/2. Your difficulties fully appreciated. Intentions as to A/C patrols and R/C and as to T.B. Squadrons for Iceland. (A.C.N.S. H. 1237B/3). See Operations Volume.

W.A. Escort Forces.

My 1301B/May 30. and my 2201B/30. Amend as follows. (C. in C. W.A. 1716B/3).

Defence Of United Kingdom.

Iceland A/A defences.

Your 1509/23. Regret no equipments available at the moment, but two Hispano guns with ammunition will be sent as soon as they can be made available from another naval requirement. (D. of L.D. 1501B/3 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

Movements.

RODNEY.

N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1853B/2.
RODNEY is to be sailed as soon as she has embarked her ammunition.
(1st S.L. 0023B/3).

AURANIA
DERBYSHIRE.

AURANIA is to leave patrol 1200/5 and return Hval Fiord to refuel. N.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to sail AURANIA for N.P. 72 p.m./6th
(II) Intend AURANIA to be relieved by DERBYSHIRE 1200/14 AURANIA then returning to Reyjavik to embark service personnel for onward passage.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1230B/3).

ARGUS.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 0950A/3.
F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail ARGUS and S.S. NEA HELLAS in company without cruiser escort so as to pass through 47° N 24° W at 0600B /3 steering 350°.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide an A/S escort and route to Clyde.
(1st S.L., 2006B/3).

/GALATEA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

GALATEA. In view of A.M. 0040/3 you will not be required to embark large quantities of stores as stated in A.M. 1942/28/5.
2. Further signal will be made re passengers who will probably be for first port of call only.
3. Ammunition referred to in para.3 of A.M. 1942/28 should be embarked.
(A.C.N.S. F. 21[illegible] B/3 to GALATEA.)

Operations.

Denmark Straits Patrol. EDINBURGH is to proceed at 2100B/4 to patrol Denmark Straits. HERMIONE is to leave patrol at 1400B/5 and return to Hvalfiord.
HERMIONE is to leave Hvalfiord on 9/6 relieving EDINBURGH on patrol at 1200B/10.
(C.S. 18 0728B/3 to HERMIONE).

Iceland-Faeroes, Patrol. Sailed ARETHUSA.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0929/3).

Interception of Enemy Surface Unit. All times M.S.T. Position of S/Ms at 0800/4 and movements for following 24 hours.
A. TRIDENT, SEALION, STURGEON, RUBIS, TUNA in Bay of Biscay between 45° N and 48° 20' N. and between 11° W and 07° W. may be on the surface. (F.O.S. 1554B/3).

British Air Activity.

R/C of Narvik by Catalina. My 1940/2. Recalled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0202/3).

Patrols. A parallel track A/S sweep is now being flown by 5 Whitley A/C. Datum Butt of Lewis, mean course 315°. Patrols HORNLI and STAND now in operation.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1018/3).

/Sunderland.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Patrols. (contd). Sunderland A/C will carry out 50 mile square A/S search around 61° 29' N. 00° E commencing 1730/3 until about 0001/4.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1400/3).
My 1400/3. A/C will be on patrol 1600.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1538/3).

Sydenham, Belfast. F.O.I.C. Belfast 1843B/31/5. Consider Sydenham could be run as a Naval Air Station with following facilities. Details.
With these arrangements it is considered that Sydenham would be suitable for the use of 804 Squadron only.
(V.A.N.A.S. 123D B/3 to Admty).

Escort. Expect close A/S escort by one Catalina and wide A/S search by second Catalina throughout the night.
(C. in C. W.A., 1820B/3 to MALCOLM).

M/Vs attacked on 2/6. Two claimed destroyed. Day 31 May, Night 31 May/1 June, Day 1 June, Night 1/2 June:-
No operations took place owing to bad weather.
Day 2 June. One Blenheim attacked a 1,000 ton M/V in the River Eider and 2 others attacked 2-3,000 ton and 5,000 ton M/Vs in the south-west end of the Kiel Canal. Another aircraft attacked the naval barracks at Kiel. No results observed.
One other Blenheim attacked a 1,200 ton Merchant Vessel in Kiel Canal s.w. of Rendsburg. One direct hit was obtained and the vessel turned to port and ran into canal bank. It is claimed as a total loss. The same aircraft attacked a 3,500 ton Merchant Vessel with a tug but one bomb was seen to overshoot and the vessel was machine-gunned. 3 other Blenheims attacked a 6,000 ton M.V. and a 1,500 ton Collier in the centre of the Kiel Canal and a 2,500 ton Merchant Vessel at the south-western end of the canal; no results observed. One Blenheim attacked a 2,500 ton M/V one mile off Vestbydd, 15 miles north-west of Lindisnow. Direct hits were obtained and the ship disappeared. It is claimed as a total loss. Another Blenheim attacked 2 M/Vs of 1,500 tons each in harbour at Westterschelling. 2 near misses were observed.
Night. 2/3. Dunkirk Docks, Ostend Docks, and Hook of Holland Docks were attacked by one A/C each. (H.Q.B.C., 1843/3).

Sullom.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Sullom Voe N.A. Section closed.

Your 2102B/22/5. Naval air section at Sullom Voe now closed down and all personnel, stores etc, except explosives are now at Hatston. (A.C.O.S. 1919B/3).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.S.4. BEAUMANOIR sunk. DANUBE VI damaged.

(French, 2324 tons). Following received from KINGSTON OLIVINE begins. S.S. BEAUMANOIR sank 180° (?) 8 Cables 19 Buoy at 2045 in 25 fathoms. Propose proceeding Harwich. 11 survivors on board. No casualties. (C. in C. Nore 0009B/3).
Tug DANUBE VI, bound for Yarmouth in F.S.4 arrived. Was slightly damaged alongside S.S. BEAUMANor off Whitby at 1650/2. (N.C.S.O. Middlesbrough 1235/3).
If Fleet Tender C does not refloat tonight request you will arrange Trawler to take survivors of BEAUMANOIR now on board KITTIWAKE to Humber as early as possible tomorrow. (C. in C. Nore, 2255B/3 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

ROYAL FUSILIER.

Rescue tug SEA GIANT sailed to assist ROYAL FUSILIER bombed in 55° 22' N 1° 21' W. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0142/3).
Proceed forthwith with Salvage Officer to May Island to take over tow of ROYAL FUSILIER from SEA GIANT and bring her to Leith Roads. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1110/3 to CHAMPION).
My 0142/3. SEA GIANT proceeding with tow to Leith. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1250/3).
S.S. ROYAL FUSILIER. damaged in air attack 55° 22' N 01° 21' W at 0029/3/6 approx, while in convoy F.N. 74. Sank at 1618/3 in position 200° May Island 4 miles while in tow of SEA GIANT escorted by PYTCHLEY on passage to Methil. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1741/3).
My 1741/3. PYTCHLEY reports ROYAL FUSILIER sank in 56° 06' 48" N 02° 35' W.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2045/3).

/PASS OF LENY.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.(cohtd).

PASS OF LENY (British Tanker 795 tons).	M/V PASS OF LENY inward bound from F.S. 4 attacked by A/C near Humber L/V at 2345. No casualties. Damage to E.R. Telegraph. Ship now in examination anchorage.
TARTAN (A/P Trawler attacked.)	TARTAN attacked by aircraft at 2330 near Humber L/V. No casualties. Donkey Check leaking. Anchored near Humber L/V. (F.O. Humber, 0231B/3)
PRINCE RUTERT CITY (Bombed 2/6).	Your 0907B/2. Arrived ARRAN with 42 survivors from PRINCE RUPERT CITY. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 0347B/3).
Jan Mayen.	German aircraft flew over Jan Mayen yesterday and again at 0755 today. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1257/3).
FRANKLIN and DRAUG.	Fighters are being sent to assist HURDLE. (Nore W/T 1529B/3). Arrival FRANKLIN and DRAUG at 2035. FRANKLIN reports minor internal damage from near miss of two heavy bombs p.m. today. (F.O. Humber, 2039B/3).
Convoy KEEPER.	Convoy KEEPER is being attacked by one enemy aircraft my P.C and S. 50° 26' N 5° 36' W. (BREDA 1735/3). Fighters are being sent to assist KEEPER. (Plymouth W/T 1815/3).
Convoy WATCH.	Convoy WATCH (Falmouth to Dartmouth) being attacked by enemy aircraft. (PEARL 1800/3). Convoy being attacked by enemy A/C. My positic 4 Start Point bearing 056. (PEARL, 1815/3).
Unknown Vessel.	AAAA from Wick Radio. Unknown vessel 7 or 8 miles S.S.E. from Nosshead. (Lyness 2311/3).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Tyne.

Tyne closed due to suspected Minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0015/3.)
Port Open.
(F.O.I.C., Tyne 1245/3.)

Humber.

Humber closed to navigation. Enemy minelaying
Estimate opening 0900/3.
(F.O. Humber, 0124B/3).
Humber is open to navigation.
(F.O. Humber 0929B/3).

Faeroes
North Rona
Minefield.
Conference.

Your 1427/2. Date convenient.
(D.D.O.D. M. 1132B/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

Milford Haven.

Mines detonated details.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1737/3 1739B/3).

Falmouth.

While clearing area N.W. of 192 Q Z S 1
Mine cut in 50° 11' 27" N 04° 48' 33" W.
Mine sunk by rifle fire.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1810/3).

Technical.

Suspected
R.D/F
by U.Boats.

S. 217 3/6. Further suspected use of R.D.F. by U boats. Whitley "P" No. 502 Sqn. received indications on A.S.V. 214 M.C.S. at 12 miles to starboard, homed on to it but nothing sighted of found. Time 1805/2. Approx. position 058° 34' N 010° 54' W.
(H.Q.C.C. 1600/3, to Admty R.N. Signal School)
Three cases recently reported of underwater sound transmission being heard on Asdics. (details).
Whilst evidence is not conclusive these transmissions may be U Boat echo sounding or a means by which U Boats may obtain bearing of each other. No evidence that such means are being used for intercommunication. Any further evidence on this subject should be recorded in Rs. of P.
(D.A/S.W. 1636B/3 "A" Message).

D/D.F.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical (contd).

D/D.F. C. in C. H.F. 1612B/3. See Operations Volume.

Casualties and Defects.

FLEET TENDER C. Fleet Tender C has fouled wreck in 053° 22' 50" N 001° E. Badly holed forward. Request tugs immediately. Am standing by. Request fighter protection daylight.
(VERDUN 0250B/3).
My 0250B/3. Ship reports fore Peak and number one hold open to sea and fast on wreck. Request salvage expert may be sent as C.O. considers if refloated bulkhead may not hold due to heavy ballasting. (VERDUN 0364B/3).
Your 0250B/3. Fighter protection arranged. Humber tugs delayed by mines. Tugs also ordered from Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore, 0413B/3 to VERDUN).
Departure at 0440 Tug DIVERSION by inner swept channel to assist Fleet Tender near 59 Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0445B/3).
Departure H.M.Tug SABINE at 0520 to assist Fleet Tender C. (F.O. Humber 0526B/3).
C.O. now reports ships making water throughout and listing all round port, and is preparing abandon ship temporarily. Consider if VERDUN attempts towing off it will drag her forward bottom end out.(VERDUN 0536B/3).
Departure M.L. 201 at 0601B with Salvage Officer on board to assist, Fleet Tender.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0636B/3).
C.O. Fleet Tender C has abandoned ship temporarily pending arrival of Tug, ship's company on board VERDUN. First 80 feet of ship fast on wreck. Numbers one and two holds open to sea. Consider refloating by tug problematical.(VERDUN 0637/3)
Proceed to stand by Fleet Tender "C" and relieve VERDUN.(C. in C. Nore 0749B/3 to KITTIWAKE).
United Towing Company's HEADMAN left Hull 1730 with Salvage Officer and Pumps on board.
Departure SPURN 2030 to assist F.T."C".
(F.O. Humber 2104B/3).
Salvage Officer Yarmouth reports attempt to refloat at 2130 unsuccessful, Require additional tugs and NESSUS. Air escort essential.
(KITTIWAKE 2320/3).

/GENTIAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.6.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. (contd).

GENTIAN. Have minor engine defects. Speed reduced to 9 knots. Intend to proceed to Londonderry unless otherwise ordered. (GENTIAN 1500B/3).

POLYANTHUS. My 0936B/2 and 1512/2. POLYANTHUS delayed by defects. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1501B/3).

EMILE FRANQUI. (Grounded 3/4). Re towing, from Leith to North Shields. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1730/3 to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Rosyth 2210/3 to Admty).

Shipping and Convoys.

Atlantic Routes. Amendment No. 12 to A.M. 0001/1/5. (A.C.N.S. T. 0027B/3 to A.I.G., 21 etc). See Summaries Folder.

R.V. Positions. Definition of terms "Eastern R.V." and "Western R.V." applied to H.M. and S.C. convoys, also "Western Departure Point" applied to O.B. convoys. My 1511/19/4 cancelled (C. in C. W.A., 1711B/3 to Admty etc). See Summaries Folder.

W.S. 9B. GALATEA is required to sail as escort to W.S. 9 (B) which sails from Clyde on 20/6. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail GALATEA for Clyde in time for C.O. to attend a convoy conference on forenoon of 19/6. (1st S.L. 0040B/3 to C. in C. W.A., GALATEA, C. in C. Plymouth).

W.S. 9 A. Sailed 1644 Liverpool Section W.S. 9 A escorted by RICHMOND and RAMSEY. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1820B/3 to Admty etc).

Independent Shipping. Cancel A.M. 2054B/6. More accurate information (D.T.D. 2020B/3 to N.C.S.O.'s).

W.S. & X.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (contd).

W.S. 8 X. BRIGHTON and ST. MARYS left convoy W.S. 8 X at 0800B/3. Present position 051° 45' N 016° 37' W course and speed 050° 13½ knots Not sufficient oil to comply with your 1942 B/3. (weather). (BRIGHTON, 2200B/3 to C. in C W.A.) (See also U Boat Campaign).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

P.32. Escort has not arrived visibility 15 miles am proceeding position E clear of U boat area. (P. 32, 0705Z/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)
P.32 not in R.V.
(SCOTTISH, 0800A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0909A. Am leaving R.V. Course 103°, 12½ knots. (SCOTTISH, 1000A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)
P.32 in company position 036° 02' N 006° 20' W.
(SCOTTISH 1800A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Arrival H.M.S. P.32.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 2220A/3 to Admty etc).

VICTORIOUS Escort. My 1308/2 and my 1020/1. WIVERN, VANSITTART, and WILD SWAN will be the only Vees available to meet VICTORIOUS.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0932A/3 to VICTORIOUS).

NEA HELLAS. Your 1920B/2. Ship has already got some 770 persons on board (details). No accomodation for these in Gibraltar all available having been requisitioned. No anti-submarine escort available before p.m./4. Presence of four carriers at Gibraltar simultaneously will presumably be curtailed as much as possible. Had intended sailing NEA HELLAS with ARGUS.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/3 to Admty).

Yugoslav Shipping. My 1736/21/4
All Yugoslav vessels reaching Gibraltar from Lisbon should be ordered to Halifax.
(Admty, 1723B/3 to F.O.C.N.A.).

ASTER WOODRUFF. Your 1325/1. Sailed ASTER 1430A/3 (route) ordered by C. in C. S.A. E.T.A. Bathurst 0700 Z+1/9. WOODRUFF delayed by defect expected sail P.M./4. (F.O.C.N.A., 1732B/3 to C. in C.S.A.)

Enemy Tanker. P.32 sighted loaded 10,000 ton unidentified Tanker in position 044° 00' N 010°00' W course 295° 11 knots at 2150B/31. (details). P.32 is being docked for examination of damage and removal of battery.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2310A/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CILICIA, PRETORIA CASTLE.	My 2159/2 R.V. for CILICIA with PRETORIA CASTLE should reach 024° 30' S 008° 00' E. (C. in C. S.A., 0901N/3 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)
ASTURIAS.	Your 2301/2 and Admty 2003/6/5 and 0318/14/5 ASTURIAS will be taken in hand at Simpson Yard, Bethlehem Street Corporation, Boston, Mass. (D.O.D. (F) 1234B/3 to C. in C. S.A.)
ORBITA T.O.4 collision.	Report received concerning collision between S.S. ORBITA and Tug T.O.4 on 15.2.41. Request name of T.O.4. (D.O.D. (F) 1249B/3 to N.O.I.C. Durban).
SILVER YEW CLAN MACDOUGALL (torpedoed 31/5) Dakar as U/B base.	British Consul St. Vincent reports on Torpedoing of SILVER YEW and CLAN MACDOUGALL as follows (begins). This open bay can be kept under observation during night from Channel so that ships leaving have little chance of escaping attack. Probably German Submarines use Dakar as Base (Ends). No evidence that Dakar is being used as base reported before. CLEMATIS is escorting 4 ship at St. Vincent for S.L.76 from there tonight having patrolled Area first. Has orders that if shadowed ships are to disperse and proceed independently so as not to bring U Boat to main convoy. N.C.S.O. has been ordered to retain ships southbound for present. Endeavou will be made to provide escort later. (C. in C. S.A., 1315N/3 to Admty).
MIGNONETTE.	C. in C. W.A. 1846B/31 and N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1223B/1. Request MIGNONETTE may be sailed for Freetown at best speed by quickest route and not with an O.G. Convoy. (C. in C. S.A., 1401N/3 to Admty).
ERLANGEN (German)	Arrived Mar-del-Plata this morning 3/6 in ballast. B.2 reports will load 7,000 tons products. According to N.A. Santiago de Chile latest report estimates vessel had 25/2/1941 800 tons bunkers sufficient for 20 days steaming. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1515Z/3 to C. in C. .S.A.). (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1631Z/3 to S.A. Div).

/NIEUW.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.6.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Your 1717/2. Request you inform Master that Royal Netherlands Government have obtained Agreement of owners of NIEUW AMSTERDAM and of Netherlands Shipping Committee to her proceeding to Suez on forthcoming voyage. Charter Party amended accordingly. (D.S.T., 1543B/3 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown).

Air Sqdn. Freetown. My X. 802. T.O.O. 1810/2. Advance party 200 Sqn. arrive Freetown approx. 12/6. Domestic equipment for this party will arrive Freetown approx. 16/6. (Air Ministry, 1934/3 to R.A.F. Bathurst).

DOMINE (Spanish). Spanish ship DOMINE 31/5. Fernando Po for Las Palmas with Ship Navicert. Fairly reliable information indicates (a) 1 German national on board (b) German Consular mail may be in the safe of either the Telegraphist of First Officer or in the custody of Chief Steward named Jaime Orts (c) some German mail may be in five postal packets coffee despatched by Herman Martin. If encountered remove German national if he comes within scope of articles 51 to 54 of C.B. 1993, German Consular mail and any enemy mail discovered. (Admty., 1947B/3 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.).

MONBALDO. Para reports Master of Italian MONBALDO visited port authorities. Information indicate may be arranging clearance. (S.O.(I) Montevide 2334Z/3 to S.A.D.)

A/S Vessels. Reinforcement of A/S vessels, Freetown area. (1st. S.L. 2359B/3 to C.[illegible] in C. Med., S.A. & F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Admty Thanks. — Message from the Board. (1st. Lord, 0346B/3, to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy.

Summary No. 358 up to 1200 hrs. 3.6.1941. Night 31/5 - 1/6.

A/C Minelaying Alexandria. — About 5 unidentified enemy aircraft laid mines off Alexandria. A.A. fire destroyed 1. Day 2/6. 1 unidentified enemy aircraft flew over Alexandria at 26,000 feet. 2 Tomahawks were unable to intercept. No bombs dropped.

Benghazi bombed. — Night 1/2 June. 8 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour causing violent explosion and fire near water tower and second explosion at Police School.

Tobruk bombed. — 8 unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk. No damage, reported. (H.Q. R.A.F. ME.1043/3).

ANKARA, German and Greek ports. — Turkish steamer ANKARA due to sail for Piraeus to bring away Turkish legation has not been granted safe conduct by Germany. Important official Turkish source considers further German operations from Greek bases is imminent hence denial of access to ports. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1100/3 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy Convoys. — 0930B/3 6 destroyers 6 merchant ships 036° 15' 012° 15' course 190° 12 knots.
0920B/3 3 cruisers,4 destroyers 036° 20' 012° 10' course 030° 15 knots.
(S.O. (S) Malta, 1110B/3 to UNIQUE, URGE, URSULA) (See also 1225/3 to UTMOST).

Syria. — Request for classification of Government policy. (C. in C. Med., 1135C/3 to Admty). See Lion Copy. Reply (1st S.L., 0129B/5).

UTMOST. — Remain within 20 miles radius 036° 10' 013° 10' to S.W. of line 115° through position. At 0930B/3 3 cruisers 4 destroyers 036° 20' 012° 10' 030° and 6 destroyers 6 merchant ships 036° 15' 012° 15' 190° 12 knots. Blenheims sent to attack. Convoy may return and cruisers may cover to eastward. My 0959B/31, leave area p.m./4 to arrive Malta 0630B. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1225B/3 to UTMOST).

/Mining in.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Mining in Gulf of Suez.	My 2009B/24 and your 2013C/29. Enemy have such good minelaying targets in the Canal entrance, Newport Rock Channel and anchorages that it is considered most improbable that he will lay mines further to seaward. Therefore suggested that minewatching and sweeping should be arranged for channels and anchorages north of 29° 50 ' N. Sweeping to be effective to the 30 fathom line would require a closely buoyed channel nearly 20 miles in length. When more sweepers are available it may be necessary to extend the searched channel to the 20 fathom line. (ACNS (F) 1334B/3 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I.)
Swordfish Minelaying.	Reply to C. in C. Med., 2228C/2. (V.A. Malta, 1445B/3) See Mediterranean Volume.
ILEX HOTSPUR.	E.T.A. at Famagusta 0300/4. (C. in C. Med., 1501C/3 to N.O.I.C. Famagusta).
REGENT. O.24.	Your 1010A/30. Request you sail REGENT for Malta when ready, to follow enemy convoy routes between Sicily and Africa as far as 035° 00' N as directed by V.A. Malta, REGENT to remain one day at Malta and thence to patrol off Benghazi as ordered by Capt. S.1. returning to Alexandria on completion. Request you will arrange for O.24 to carry out patrol in Gulf of Genoa. (C. in C. Med., 1507C/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)
TRIUMPH.	Leave patrol p.m./5 to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 05000/12. (route). (Capt. S.1., 1515C/3 to TRIUMPH).
GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI.	N.A. Ankara's signal of 18/5. Italian tanker G. GHIRARDI passed through 2/6 to Black Sea from Salonica. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1635/3 to C. in C. Med).

/CONTE ROSSO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CONTE ROSSO lifeboats.

3 empty merchant ships' life boats were towed into Malta on 1/6 and 2/6. From clothing and private effects and boats covers indicate boats belonged to CONTE ROSSO (Identifications) (S.O.(I) Malta, 1800B/3 to Admty).

Enemy Convoy attacked, 2 ships hit.

Malta C.S.R. All times G.M.T. up to 1600 hrs. 3/6.
5 Blenheims 139 and 82 squadrons attacked convoy of M/V's (seen searlier by Maryland recco) this afternoon with excellent results. 1 M/V 8000 tons was hit with 4 bombs and blew up with a tremendous explosion smoke pall to 1500 feet debris from ship is reported as having damaged other ships in convoy as they were very close. A second ship of 5,000 tons was also hit with 4 bombs and was left on fire volumes of smoke from amidships photographs of the attack taken by last two attacking aircraft excellent and embellish crew reports on the operation. Photographs of great publicity value. Much regret Pepper and crew who bombed and set on fire second ship were hit by debris from ship which exploded and crashed into sea with little hope of survival. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1855/3).

Suez Canal.

Your 1041B/30, C.O.S. 122. Proposals for defence. (C. in C. Med., 1947/3 to Admty) See Mediterranean Volume.

French Use of W/T Alexandria.

My 1520C/30. Admiral Godfroy fully concurs that it would be a breach of our agreement to use DUQUESNE'S wireless for diplomatic traffic. He has assured me that no wireless messages have been transmitted for French diplomatic sources nor has he received any suggestion from French Ministry that he should do so.
(C. in C. Med., 2039C/3 to Ambassador, Cairo).

S/Ms Refits.

Submarines are due for 18 months refit during 1941 as follows: TAKU, July: TETRARCH, August: CACHALOT, September; RORQUAL, October; Propose TAKU refits Singapore TETRACH in U.S.A. on completion TRUANT, CACHALOT Port Said, RORQUAL U.K., being relieved by PORPOISE temporarily. (Cpt. S.1., 2118C/3 to C. in C.Med

/Enemy Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Enemy Convoy. 1930B, convoy of 7 ships sighted steering 105° speed 12 knots in position 034° 50' 012° 00'. Swordfish are attacking. Anticipate ships will turn towards Tripoli. (Cdr. S.1., 2125B/3 to URSULA).

Situation report 45. ILEX and HOTSPUR left for Famagusta to embark S.S. Troops. GLENGYLE escorted by Greek Destroyers due Port Said early 4/6.
2. Western Desert. Schooner AGIOS PANTELEMON Overdue and feared lost probably by air attack. As a result of bombing KLP has ?six casualties including all officers and in 'A' Lighter No. 10 Captain killed and three injured. Two air attacks on AUCKLAND North of Tobruk result unknown. Fighter protection for ships on Western Desert Gunnery meagre. (C. in C. Med., 2201C/3 to Admty).

Fighters, Tobruk area. Following received from 204 Group. (Begins) Your Mediterranean (?45051) of 29/5. Only 5 long range Hurricanes available. Requisite long range Hurricanes have been all recalled for modification. Enemy has numerical air superiority fighters in Tobruk area therefore any Hurricane action in area F. has to be taken with special caution to prevent defeat in detail. Suggest you arrange ships being maximum distance from Tobruk during daylight. Negative fighter at Tobruk. T.O.O. 1217/3. (Ends). (C. in C. Med., 2217C/3 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, S.O. Force I).

SULLBERG
ATLAS. 2/6 arrival German steamer SULLBERG.
Departure " " ATLAS for Marseilles
(Valencia. T.H.I. 2330/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Air Search.	My 1354/27. Catalina FVY carried out search of Admirante Isles Farquhar group and Coetivy Island 2/6. Nothing sighted. (C. in C. E.I., 0314Z/3, to Admty., etc.)
Iraqi Armistice.	Your 1/69433. T.O.O. 2000/1 (to me only.) Nevertheless I presume clause will be put into final terms as suggested and that British dispositions for the security and control of the line of communications under our treaty rights will include our occupation of key points on the river banks. S.N.O. Persian Gulf pass to General Basra. My 1850/31. refers. (C. in C. E.I., 0416Z/3, to G.H.Q., M.E.)
T.C.11.	Reply to D. of S.T. 1354/29. (S.S.T.O. India, 0710Z/3.) See Operations Volume.
S.W.7.A.	My 0736/3, Mombasa section of S.W.7, namely STRATHNAVER ORONTES, VICEROY OF INDIA, STRATHMORE, are to complete loading with all despatch and be sailed as convoy S W 7 A, escorted by CERES to Durban, DUCHESS OF YORK is to sail with S W 7 A from Mombasa to Durban.(C. in C. E.I., 0738Z/3 to N.O.I.C., E. Africa.)
C.M.11. MAURITIUS SHROPSHIRE C.M.12.	My 0808/30 para. 3. C.M.11 will now be escorted by MAURITIUS instead SHROPSHIRE, sailing date will now be later than 5/6 and C.M.12 may sail before C.M.11. (C. in C. E.I., 0740Z/3, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)
Force T. HERMES.	My 0658/2 is confirmed. No A/C will be disembarked. (C. in C. E.I. 1726Z/3).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.6.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Minesweepers

Your 1409/16/4. Para B. Hong Kong. Following could be fitted with LL Sweep Indira large type. MINNIE HENRIETTA MARGARET small type. SHUNWO and HANWO already earmarked for mark five. In addition three late Chinese maritime customs vessels could be fitted with Oropesa and OR L L large type, but employment at present restricted vide my 0917/27/5. Rangoon. CHINTHE degaussed capable towing skids. Probable all above suitable for external S.A. sweep. (C. in C. China, 0847Z/3 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

RODNEY

Admty. 1250B/29/5. When ready to leave Halifax, requested you will sail RODNEY for Boston, and keep U.S.A. Authorities informed. (D.O.D. (H) 0009B/3, to R.A. 3.)
Request you will keep N.A. Washington and Adm. Danckwerts informed of RODNEY's movements when she leaves Halifax.
(D.O.D. (H) 0030/B/3 to R.A. 3.)
Para 9 of F.O. telegram 2635/17 addressed to Washington. Adm. Little, Gen. Wemyss and Air V.M. Harris leave U.K. 3/6 in RODNEY. E.T.A. Halifax about 11/6. R.A. 3rd. B.S. requested to keep you informed of movements of RODNEY.
(D.O.D. (H) 0049B/3 to N.A. Washington for R.A. Danckwerts.)

/Oilers at.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.-Contd.

Oilers at St. John's.

Your 1626/29. For the present oiler with 6000 tons of cargo is required to be held available at St. Johns N.F. to fuel H.M. Ships at Conception Bay at twelve hours notice. TEAKWOOD should be retained for meeting this requirement and VANJA for supplying ships at St. Johns and for replenishing TEAKWOOD. Presume oilers will reloa at Halifax. Request confirmation that this will be satisfactory also report when it is expected that oil supply for St. Johns N.F., can be maintained under arrangements you are making.
(Director of Stores 1001B/3. to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

U.S. Submarines.

Following received from Washington.
Two U.S. Submarines leave New London p.m./3 due to arrive Bermuda a.m./6.
(D.D.I.C. 1002B/3, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

TRUANT.

Cancel A.T. 0928B/30. TRUANT is to leave patrol and proceed to Gardiner's Day, Long Island, in accordance with C. in C. A. and W I., 1312Q/30.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1037B/3 to TRUANT.)

MICHAEL E., catapult aircraft.

Admty., 1046B/23. S.S. MICHAEL E., the first vessel fitted with catapult and fighter aircraft, left in O.B.327 and is due Halifax about 10/6. [illegible] Lieut. Commander Gough will not now arrive until about 11/6. Request arrangements for maintenance of aircraft on this vessel may be improvised pending this officers arrival. Vessel is of the closed shelter deck type and normally would be loaded to deep marks. If after consultation with Master and service personnel on board it is considered she should only be loaded to open shelter deck marks, request you will arrange accordingly.M.of WT agrees.(D.T.D.1105B/3 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.)

/Information...

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

3.6.1941
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Information from U.S.

Reference last sentence but one of your 2221/30, I fully agree that there is at present a time lag in passing of information by U.S. Authorities. I am, however, endeavouring to dffect an improvement through Adm., Ghormley, U.S. Special Observer now in this country, and meantime it is important to avoid any hint reaching the Americans that we are dissatisfied with their methods.
(1st. S.L., 1135B/3, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Air Reconn.

To obtain information for future routeing of Convoys, request air reconnaissance to be carried out to maximum depth between bearings to 035° and 065° from St. Johns N.F.
(D.O.D.(H) 1243B/3, to C.N.S., Ottawa.)

WINNIPEG crew.

D. of S.T. 0750B/30. Reference recruiting crew of WINNIPEG, Security Authorities advise awaiting arrival at Trinidad today De Gaulle's special representative specially appointed for this work. Please inform me if this is my responsibility or that of local Government.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1247Q/3, to C. in C.A.W.I.

H.X.131 escorts.

A.M. 1057B/2.
(i) Request RIMOUSKI and PICTOU be sailed as escort for H X 131 from Halifax to Icelandic R.V. thence to Iceland to refuel and return to St. John's N.F.
Request N.O.i/c St. John's at his discretion to augment escort of H.X. 131 using COBALT CANDYTUFT or HONEYSUCKLE. Ship chosen to R.V. H.X. 131 as convenient off Newfoundland Escort of H.X. 129 to continue in accordance with their present orders.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1332Z/3, to N.O.I.C., St. John's N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

/St. John's.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

St. John's N.F. as Advanced Base.	Amending Admty., 1939/23/5. (Head of M., 1401B/3.) See Lion Copy.
WINNIPEG crew.	Request early reply to Trinidad's 1008Q/29 since French Naval Officer influencing crew to remain Vichy. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1616Q/3, to Admty.)
REPULSE fuel.	Admty., 0056B/3rd para. III Report action taken to have fuel available Concepcion Bay for REPULSE by 5/6. Your 2346z/31, Admiralty approve filling U.S. Seaplane tenders from VANJA but give REPULSE priority. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1643z/3, to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.)
DIOMEDE U.S. Task Force patrols.	Your 1915/29/4 para. (d) Patrols covering 22 days of May have been carried out by DIOMEDE with oilers and by U.S.Task Force 2 between latitudes 040° N., and 020° N., and meridians 030° W., and Bermuda. (corrupt group) Fuellings have been carried out at sea. Conditions found to be continuously suitable for fuelling within area enclosed by parallel 038° N., and 020° N., and meridians 050° W., and 030° W.(C. in C.A.W.I.,1726Q/3, to Admty.

Australia.

CAP TARIFA. (French.)	Departure 2/6 P.M., Kembla 3/6. Newcastle N.S.W. T.O.O. 0003Z/3, to Fairmiss

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EIBERGEN. Dutch, 4801 tons. Following has been read. SSSS 48.02 N., 25.06 W., EIBERGEN torpedoed about 35 men in boat.
(Liverpool, 0538/3.)
Detach NIAGARA to assistance of EIBERGEN Torpedoed 048° 02' N., 025° 06' W., 0528 G.M.T. 35 men in boats.
(C. in C. W.A., 1051B/3, to COLUMBIA.)
Your 1051B/3. Neither ship has sufficient fuel to carry out more than brief search of area indicated in your 2159B/2. ST. CLAIR has developed condenser trouble and am ordering her to proceed to destination. 49.00 N., 18.10 W., 122. (Weather.)
(COLUMBIA 1159Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C. and S., 048° 22' 022° 030' 051°degs. 27. MALVERNIAN searching at daylight 4/6 for EIBERGEN life boat. (Weather)
(LEGION, 1730B/3 to C. in C. W.A.)
Area searched with nothing found. NIAGARA proceeding to destination having insufficient fuel to continue search.
Ref. A.M. (? 1429) /3 am steering for 049° 25' N., 030° 08' W., in endeavour to intercept. E.T.A., in position at 1730 but will have to discontinue search at 1900 G.M.T. owing to lack of fuel.
(COLUMBIA, 1741Z/3, to C. in C. W.A.)
After leaving W.S.8.X, SAGUENAY is to proceed 48° 02' N., 25° 06' W., where EIBERGEN was torpedoed at 0528Z/3 35 men are in lifeboats. NIAGARA has been ordered to this position but is short of fuel.
If fuel permits BRIGHTON and ST. MARYS should also proceed to this position.
(C. in C. W.A., 1942B/3 to SAGUENAY, BRIGHTON ST.MARYS,
Reply of BRIGHTON, 2200B/3, see Shipping and Convoys, W.S.8.X.
In view of U-Boat menace do not linger in the vicinity of EIBERGEN. If survivors are not found proceed on patrol.
(C. in C.W.A., 2348B/3, to MALVERNIAN.)

/EIBERGEN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.6.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. Contd.

EIBERGEN
MICHAEL E.

My 1942B/3. After leaving position of EIBERGEN pass through position 48° 50' N., 29° 00' W., where MICHAEL. E was torpedoed at 1857B/2. COLUMBIA has searched this area but failed to find any survivors. Report without delay if any survivors are recovered from other vessel.
(C. in C. W.A., 2351B/3, to SAGUENAY.)

MOKAMBO
(torpedoed 2/6.)

Proceed from Lough Foyle so as to R.V. with MOKAMBO escorted by GENTIAN and FREESIA in position 55° 42' N., 07° 20' W., at 2300B/3. MOKAMBO has been torpedoed in No. 1. hold and is proceeding to Clyde course 120° speed 5 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1244B/3, to SALVONIA.)
See also WANDERER, 0817B/3, in S/M's Attacked.

AMPETCO
(Panamanian.)

Following has been read. Intercept 1335 G.M.T. SSSS unknown ship 48.40 N., 29.30 W., sighted and being chased by submarine 1320 G.M.T. (Land's End, 1328/3.)
Following has been read - SSSS de AMPETCO 48.40 N., 29.30 W., sighted and being chased by Submarine 1320 G.M.T. steering N., approx., speed 10.5.
(Liverpool W/T, 1344/3.)
Following has been read:-
SSSS AMPETCO Amend position to 48.48 N., 30.08 W., at 1400 G.M.T./3 steering N., speed 10.25.
(Liverpool W/T, 1420/3.)
Have sighted AMPECTO 049° 30' N., 029° 39' W. (COLUMBIA, 1955Z/3, to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1955Z/3rd. AMPECTO spoken. Submarine

/appeared .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.6.1941.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

AMPETCO (Panamanian) Contd. — appeared out of mist about 60 miles (?) S. then submerged and has not been seen since. Ship is turning to westward for New York. Nothing else sighted, am proceeding to destination in company with NIAGARA. Lat. 49° 28' Long. 29° 46' (weather). (COLUMBIA, 2031/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

TABARISTAN (Torpedoed 29/5.) — Torpedoed 29/5, 21 P (?) G.M.T. 06° 34' N. 15° 23' W. sunk by single torpedo in four minutes. Master, seven other British and 31 Lascars arrived Freetown. Submarine probably U-25 class sighted from raft by Master about 1800/30 in estimated 06° 20' N., 14° 45' W and remained in sight until dusk. (C. in C. S.A. 1644N/3 to Admty.)

RINDA (Torpedoed 30/5) — Torpedoed 2240 G.M.T./30/5. 06° 52' N., 15° 14' W., sunk by two torpedoes, 13 drowned including Master. 18 survivors arrived Freetown 1/6. Submarine not seen. (C. in C. S.A. 1646N/3 to Admty.)

GRAVELINES (Torpedoed 31/5.) — Arrived Clyde tugs SEAMAN and SUPERMAN with fore part of SS GRAVELINES (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2315B/3 to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

Submarines Reported

2254/2 — Bearings indicate Italian U-Boat in the vicinity of 010° W. at 2254/2. (F.O.C.N.A. 0829/3 to N.A. Stn.)

1030/20 — British ship SAN DELPHI reports having sighted periscope in 056° 05' N., 045° 33' W at 1030/20. Periscope was of unusual type drawing of which is being conveyed to U.K. by Master (S.N.O. Curacao 1041/QR/3 to Admty)

0827 — Admty. message A.F. Position 48° 02' N., 25° 06' W., at 0827/3 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1101B/3.)

1320 — Admty. A.F. position 48° 40' N., 29° 30' W., at 1320/3 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1420/3)
My 1420 G.M.T./3, amended position 48° 48' N 30° 08' W. at 1400/3 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1726B/3

Estimated U/B dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1446B/3)

/1630.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.6.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1630. Proceed with all despatch to search for U-Boat reported by aircraft in 054° 18' N. 019° 35' W. at 1630B bearing and distance from convoy 170° 13 miles. (S.O.12 Escort Group, 1629OB/3 to SCIMITAR, BURWELL, RIPLEY)
Aircraft report U-Boat in 054° 18' N. 019° 35' W. at 1530B. Detach hunting force at your discretion, aircraft will co-operate. (C. in C.W.A. 1629B/3 to MALCOLM)
My P.C.and S. are 055° 02' N. 018° 37' W. 030° 15 knots, insufficient fuel to continue search rejoining convoy bearing (corrupt group) 18 miles. RIPLEY serarching 218° 54 miles and BURWELL searching to westward from me. MALCOLM attacked non submarine contact, expended six depth charges. (S.O.12 Escort Group, 1951B/3 to C.in C.W.A.)
Your 1629B/3. Have carried out search, nothing to report. Rejoining convoy, BURWELL in company, no aircraft sighted. (RIPLEY, 2052B/3 to C. in C.W.A.)

1715. U-Boat 17° 9' N. 25° W. 1715 G.M.T./3. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1707/3 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.)
My 2257/1 not to Admiralty or N.C.S.O. St. Vincent. U-boat reported in position 17° 09' N. 25° W. at 1715Z/3. N.C.S.O. did not sail ships so they will not now join convoy. Remain in vicinity for present and harry U-Boat. May require you to escort S.S. KINGSTON HILL also at St. Vincent Southward. (C. in C.S.A. 2345N/3 to CLEMATIS)

2000. Sighted a periscope of S/M 056° 26' N. 020° 53' W. 2000/3. (M.D. 2 L.1 (UMTALI) 2204/3 to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth.)

2330. Submarine sighted on surface in position 002° 49° N. 31° W 21 (NIAGARA, 2330/3 to Admty.)

/2000/2 .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.6.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

2000/2 Neutral source reports U-Boat was in position 034° 54' N. 007° W. 05' W. at 2000/2 (F.O.C.N.A. 2351A/3 to WRESTLER, AZALEA, JONQUIL, GERANIUM, ASTER.)
Information volunteered by Master of Spanish SANTA ELENA, bound Ceuta to Malaga. (details as 2331A/3 S.O.I. Gib. 2340A/3 to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked.

2109/2 Contact lost. Hunt abandoned inconclusive. Sweeping back to convoy with WESTCOTT at 18 knots. PERIWINKLE with MOKAMBO. Remainder with convoy. (WANDERER 0001B/3 to C. in C.W.A.)
W.A.C.I. part 102.
(A) 4 full pattern by PERIWINKLE 2 by WANDERER. No visible result. 1927 000° one mile.
(B) Starboard.
(C) WANDERER, WESTCOTT and CAMPBELTOWN one mile ahead, on port beam and astern respectively. PERIWINKLE and MARIGOLD between column Convoy. AURICULA absent with stragglers.
(D) MOKAMBO No.62. Returning to U.K. under own steam.
(E) 1917/2 056° 38' N. 010° 24' W.
(F) 252° 23'.
(G) Overcast, good visibility, wind N.E. 3.
(H) Attack pressed home from starboard bow at periscope depth. After firing Submarine turned outward. Periscope sighted by PERIWINKLE one cable outside starboard wing column moving on course 300°. Immediately counter attack was made. (WANDERER, 0617B/3 to Admty. etc.)

By ST.MARY'S. In position 052° 34' N. 017° 40' W.(corrupt group) (?Zero *) 4 time between 1745B/?2 and 1900B/2. Contact regained after last attack, but left to rejoin screen, my position noon 050° 16' N. 018° 56' W. (Weather) (ST. MARY'S, 1905B/3 to C.in C.WA

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.6.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

E-Boat encounter

KITTIWAKE, standing by Fleet Tender C. which went aground after striking a wreck off the Outer Dowsing had a brush in the early hours of this morning with E-Boats working with aircraft Fleet Tender C. was torpedoed by an E-Boat at 0401B and is considered a total loss.

PRINZ EUGEN

The PRINZ EUGEN was seen by A/C R/C at 1250 in dry dock at Brest. Aircraft attack was ordered for the early hours of tomorrow morning but was cancelled owing to bad weather.

Northern Patrol

HERMIONE is patrolling in Denmark Straits and ARETHUSA S.E. of Iceland. AURANIA is in N.P. 71. EDINBURGH is to leave Hvalfiord at 2100 to patrol Denmark Straits.

Enemy Merchant Vessels.

ESPERANCE BAY at 1300Z reported a suspicious merchant ship steering west at 16 knots in 43° 12' N., 23° 5' W., VICTORIOUS was ordered to detach one of her escorts to take action, and she reported that at 1815 her aircraft sighted 2 enemy merchant vessels steering 300° at 15 knots in 43° 8' N., 23° 38' W.

At 1732Z NELSON reported a merchant vessel near the same position.

SOVAC at 1335 reported a suspicious vessel in 49° 12' N., 34° 34' W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.6.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night on account of bad weather.
6 Blenheims today attacked shipping between Eigeree and Lindesnes and claim to have sunk a 5000 ton merchant vessel 30 miles west of Vestbygd (58° 28' N., 5° 42' E)

6 Blenheims with fighter escort twice set off to attack a 6000 ton merchant vessel which had been located in Boulogne harbour and four smaller vessels. Results were not seen.

6 Blenheims bombed the mole at Zeebrugge and shipping alongside and claim to have sunk a 5000 ton merchant vessel.

Enemy Air Activity

Between 0100 and 0215 ten enemy aircraft were operating to the west of Orkney and convoy W.N. 35 was attacked unsuccessfully off Loch Eriboll. One A/C homeward bound was plotted over the Flow, but owing to low cloud it is unlikely that anything was seen.

There have been three air attacks in the last few days on coastal convoys in this area.

SS CITY OF BARCELONA was bombed and machine gunned at 0509 G.M.T. in 61° 4' N 11°34' W.

/H.M. SIMMERSON....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.6.1941
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

H.M.T. SIMMERTON was unsuccessfully attacked at 0110 when on patrol 7 miles S.E. of Noss Head, Bressay.

WALLFLOWER escorting H.X. 128 was attacked unsuccessfully at 0700 in the Western Approaches, by a F.W. which gave the correct reply to her challenge before attacking.

SS BRITISH FORTUNE, apparently a straggler from E.C. 28 was bombed at 2243 of Duncansby Head. No damage was sustained.

A single A/C bombed Lowestoft at 0040. No naval damaged was caused.

Mining

Thames Estuary

Convoy Leader VAN MEERLANT was mined and sunk in the Thames Estuary at 0802 today. Sheerness was closed from 0910B to 1900B. 19 acoustic mines were detonated and 4 unexplained explosions occurred in the Shoeburyness-Sheppey area today.

The humber was closed from 0155B to 1154 B.

Tyne was closed at 1550.

A mine was detonated off Bar L.V.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.6.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

O. 24 (from Gibraltar) is to carry out a patrol in the Gulf of Genoa. F.O.C.N.A. points out that S/M's operating in the Gulf will be greatly handicapped by the present instructions which permit them to sink without warning only ships identified as enemy, and he asks that the permissable area may be extended.

Western Desert — 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

Alexandria — LEANDER arrived today to join the Fleet. There was an air raid on the harbour and town from 2130 to 2230 today by about 12 aircraft.

Dodecanese — 5 Wellingtons last night bombed Maritza Aerodrome, Rhodes.

Syria — It is reported that Aleppo and Palmyra Aerodromes are entirely handed over to the Germans who have complete ground & air staffs and that the French have withdrawn. Some modern French bombers are reported to have entered Syria via Rhodes.

The French fleet at Beirut is reported to be ready for immediate action.

4 Blenheims operating from Palestine today bombed and damaged petrol storage tanks at Beirut.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.5.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign

South Atlantic

Govt. dredger ROBERT HUGHES is reported to have been sunk by torpedo in Lagos harbour entrance at 1230N today. The port has been closed.

Survivors from SS VULCAIN recently arrived in French colonial territory report that the vessel was torpedoed at 2200/23, 160 miles N.W. of Freetown.

With reference to the explosion, supposed to be caused by torpedo, in SANGARA off Accra on 30/5 the Master of the USSARTIGUS reports that at 0325/31/5 in 4° 21' N., 4° 40' W., he was asked his name by lamp by a S/M on surface; there was no indication of the nationality of the S/M and it was possible it was French

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Control in Iceland.

I entirely concur with N.O.I.C. Iceland 1727/2 being passed to C. in C.H.F. and C. in C.W.A. and consider it essential he should be given wide powers of control in the harbour and of requisitioning buildings, etc. I presume this is chiefly a matter for Foreign Office but my impression from my short visit to Iceland is that we are treating the Icelanders much too tenderly and that firm action to give Flag Officers the necessary powers is required. The same probably applies to Military and R.A.F. requirements. (A.C.O.S.1137B/4 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

A.A. guns for Thorshaven.

Adty. 2022/2. Request precise description of guns approved so that complacements and accommodation for gun crews may be prepared in readiness.
(F.O.I.C. Faeroes 2200B/4 to Admty.)

Movements.

AURORA.
KENYA.

After fuelling at Hvalfiord AURORA proceed to Scapa and KENYA remain at Hvalfiord.
(C. in C.H.F. 1052B/4 to C.S.2.)

SOKOL.

Intend to sail SOKOL at 2100B/5 for patrol 046° 06' N. ? 010° 06' W. diving by day (route) (Capt.(S) 5, 1222B/4)

STURGEON.

STURGEON leaves patrol after dark/6 for Portsmouth diving by day (route).
(Capt.(S) 5, 1234B/4)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E.Boats.
Fleet
Tender C.
torpedoed.

2 E.Boats bearing unknown distance less than 1 mile approx. true course 090. Position 176 Outer Dowsing L.V.11. (KITTIWAKE 0155B/4).
E.Boats laying smoke screen. Am attacking. (KITTIWAKE 0225B/4)
Have sighted E.Boat. Am attacking. (KITTIWAKE 0230B/4)
Have lost contact. (KITTIWAKE 0250/4)
Proceed immediately to vicinity 59 Buoy KITTIWAKE being attacked by E.Boats and aircraft. (C. in C. Nore 0251B/4 to EGLINTON, QUORN)
Fleet Tender C. now abandoned as Salvage SABINE rescuing remainder crew am proceeding Humber. (Salvage Officer 0314B/4)
No contact lost. (KITTIWAKE 0330B/4 to EGLINTON)
Fleet Tender C. torpedoed by E.boat. Fore deck awash. E.boat attacked (? further) contact lost. (KITTIWAKE 0401B/4)
If no further E.Boats are sighted or reported by 0445B EGLINTON and QUORN are to return to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore. 0425B/4)
My 0401B. Salvage Officer consider Fleet Tender C. total loss. 44 survivors on board SABINE en route for Humber. KITTIWAKE has further 30 survivors from Fleet Tender C. (F.O. Humber, 0445B/4.)
Your 0445 proceed Humber with all tugs in company Figter protection arranged Code word "Adapt" on 365 Kc's. (C. in C. Nore. 0643B/4 to KITTIWAKE.)

STURGEON.

STURGEON is to be ordered to leave patrol after dark/6. SOKOL is to relieve SEALION in due course. (F.O.S.1036B/4 to S.5.)
Leave Patrol after dark/6 through 048° 50' N. 005° 58' W. and 050° 20' N. 001° 18' W. to R/V 180° St. Katherines 5 mile at 0500B/12. (Capt.(S) 5, 1233B/4 to STURGEON)

/Northern Patrol ....

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd.)

Northern Patrol.

Estimated position 3000/4. HERMIONE patrolling Denmark Straits. ARETHUSA patrolling South East of Iceland. EDINBURGH leaves Hvalfiord 2100 to patrol Denmark Straits. AURANIA H.P.71. (A.C.O.S. 1526B/4.)

British Air Operations.

PRINZ EUGEN.

A. CH/C9/4/6 (Brest)
B. Thorney Island - (Repeated) H.Q.C.C. 19 Group.
C. All available aircraft of 59 and 22 Squadrons to attack Cruiser EUGENE reported in dry dock at Brest, under your orders. Time over target between 0001 and 0200 hours, when 19 Group takes over. Load 500 lb.S.A.P's (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1645/4)

Recognition procedure.

A.321 4/6. C. in C.W.A. reports :-
Intend to adopt the following procedure suggested by 10 Group for trial with fighter aircraft from 10 group only.
As movements of operational bombers off South Coast and of other aircraft over Irish Sea are not notified so far as we know to ships at sea this proposal appears to be dangerous, it is also contrary to agreed inter-service rules for recognition and engagement of targets. Request your decision. (H.Q.F.C. 1940/4 to Air Min.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations.

HONTESTROOM. (Bombed 2/6)	Report of casualties. HONTESTROOM proceeding Clyde escorted by NORTHERN GEM. (NEWMARKET, 0434B/4.)
CITY OF BARCELONA.	Following has been read CITY OF BARCELONA bombed and machine gunned 61° 04' N. 11° 54' W. at 0509 G.M.T. (Wick Radio 0510/4)
Lowestoft.	Lowestoft bombed at 0040 by single A/C. No naval damage. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 0705B/4)
WALLFLOWER.	At 0700 attacked by F.W. prior to attack aircraft challenged and answered with correct letter for period. (WALLFLOWER, 0715B/4) Your 0715B/4, confirm that this was not own Catalina aircraft referred to in my 1320B/3. (C. in C.W.A. 1013B/4 to WALLFLOWER Your 1013B/4. 4 engine aircraft had enemy markings and dropped stick of bombs close astern. (WALLFLOWER 1301B/4 to C.in C.W.A.)
Convoy W.N. 35 Orkney.	Between 0100 and 0215 ten enemy aircraft were operating to the west of Orkney and Convoy W.N.35 was attacked off Loch Eriboll but no damage was sustained. One aircraft homeward bound was plotted over the Flow but owing to the low cloud it is unlikely that anything was seen. Two enemy aircraft returning through Pentland Firth E. were engaged with unseen target procedure by ground defences in south Ronaldsey. (A.C.O.S. 1201/4)

/SIMPSON .....

War Diary. 4.6.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations. (contd.)

SIMMERSON. (H.M.Trawler) — SIMMERSON reports that when on patrol 7 miles 145° from Noss Head Bressay he was attacked by single hostile aircraft at 0110/4 which dropped two bombs about 20 yards of either quarter. Visibility was poor and aircraft was not identified nor was it seen till close overhead consequently SIMMERSON failed to open fire. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1257/4.)

Re new form of attack. — By M.E.109's. (C. in C. Rosyth 1515/4)

BRITISH FORTUNE. — The following has been read. Off Duncansby Head BRITISH FORTUNE bombed. (Liverpool W/T 2043/4.)

DENNIS ROSE. — (British 1600 tons) Bombed about 0700/3 at Dartmouth. Superficial damage. No casualties. D.O.R. 4/6)

Mining.

Humber. — Humber is closed to Navigation enemy minelaying estimated opening 1100/4. (F.O. Humber 0155B/4.)
Humber open to navigation. (F.O.Humber 1154B/4)

Operation F.N.75 — F.N.75 postponed 24 hours owing to fog and ripening mines. (C. in C. Nore 1046B/4)

Harwich. — West side Continental Pier Harwich scene of casualties MARICH and DARCY COOPER is now fit for ships to berth as before. Whole of area has been searched by divers and cleared of obstruction salvage operations now completed and restriction on speed can be removed. (Salvage Officer, Harwich, 1115/4)

/Sheerness ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd.)

Sheerness. Port closed due to enemy action. (Cdre.I.C. Sheerness 0910B/4) Cancel my 0910B/4. Port reopened. (Cdre.I.C. Sheerness 1900B/4)

Tyne. Your 1507B/4 (N.T. in W.D.) Port closed suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1550/4 to Admty.)

FRANKLIN. (Bombed 3/6) Will require docking. Estimate completion 15/6 subject to further examination after docking. (F.O. Humber 1812B/4)

VAN MEERLANT. VAN MEERLANT sunk by mine in 51° 28' 29" N. 00° 52' 06" E. At 0802/4. Casualties. (C. in C. Nore. 1912B/4)

Operation P.W.10. Harwich 4/6 departure M.T.B's 22 51 34. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2152B/4)

Enemy Intelligence.

Merchant Ship. Merchant ship German appearance steering west speed 16 knots extreme range opening after chase will not stop my position 043° 12' N. 023° 05' W. (ESPERANCE BAY 1300Z/4 to C. in C.W.A. F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)
Following received from ESPERANCE BAY:-
(as 1300Z/4)
2. Detach one of your escorts to take necessary action. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1726B/4 to VICTORIOUS)
Your 1726B/4. 2 enemy merchant vessels 045° 08' N. 023° 38' W. C.and S. 300° 15 knots sighted by aircraft at 1815.
My P.C. and S. are 042° 00' N. 023° 55' W. 180° 15 knots. (VICTORIOUS 2010B/4 to Adty.)
ESPERANCE BAY 1300Z/4 directional interference in type 279 keeping receiving watch only similar to PRINCE OF WALES 2232/26 enabled air search to locate enemy at 50 miles. Technical details. (VICTORIOUS 2343B/4 to Admty.)

/Suspicious vessel .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (contd.)

Suspicious Vessel.

RRRR. SOVAC 49. 12 N. 34 34 W. suspicious vessel. (Plymouth W/T 1335/4, Valentia Radio 1339/4)

Brest.

Both B.C.'s seen in usual position. Air borne 1159. Photos Brest taken. Landed 1342. Heavy box barrage encountered over Brest. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1350/4)

W/678. 1250/4. HIPPER Class Cruiser has arrived in dry dock Grand Bassin Du Nord. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU seen in usual position. (Pru. St. Eval 1510/4) Informing A.I.G. 17, S.O. Force H. (D.D.I.C. 1538B/4)

Merchant Vessel.

One MV.018 I.U. 080 45° 5' N. 24° 14' W. XIX (NELSON 1752Z/4 to Whitehall W/T.)
M. 1732 Z. O.E.S.P. 19 45° 11' N. 24° 11' W. X. 14. (NELSON 1752Z/4 to Whitehall W/T.)

My 1735B/4. (N.T. in W.D.) Subsequent D/F bearings make it probable that two enemy surface craft were in this vicinity. (V.C.N.S.2331B/4 to C.in C. H.F.,C. in C. Plymouth, Ships and Authorities W.A. & N.A. H.Q.C.C.)

Casualties & Defects.

Refit of corvettes.

Adty. 1047B/17/5. First 2 Corvettes can be taken in hand at Charlestown South Carolina now. (Controller 1037B/4 to C. in C.W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.6.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. (contd.)

AURANIA. Your 1230B/3. At least 24 hours will be required in harbour to test both condensers which are leaking and freshen all boilers. (AURANIA 1201B/4 to F.O.C.N.P.)

MAPLIN. My 1710B/21. MAPLIN has been delayed by defect in R/T. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1543B/3)

Shipping & Convoys.

H.G. 62. Congratulations on bringing all your convoy H.G.62 safely to U.K. (C. in C.W.A. 0047B/4 to Cdre. Birnie, R.N.R.)
Arrived safely except one ship, missing.
12 British, 1 allied, 4 neutral. Cargoes.
(D.S.637, 5/6)

S.C. 51. Congratulations on successful manner in which you brought all ships of your convoy S.C. 51 safely to U.K. (C. in C.W.A. 0109B/4 to Cdre. Casey, R.N.R.)
19 British, 13 allied ships. Cargoes.
(D.S. 635, 1/6)

Shipping Diverted. Following ships North of 25° N. have been re-routed as follows. (D.T.D. 0100B/4 to C. in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CAP VARELLA, L'ADROIT, CONGO.

Report received graded B.3. that French ship CAP VARELLA was due to leave Casablanca 3/6 southbound escorted by L'ADROIT. French ship CONGO also reported leaving for Dakar date unknown.
(D.D.I.C.0056B/4 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

NEA HELLAS.

My 0950A/3. Request instructions. Military require at least 24 hours to improvise temporary catering and living accommodation ashore. In addition to passengers, (?ship has a) large amount of cargo to be offloaded in U.K. vide A.C.W.App. 1003 N/17.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1004A/4 to Admty).
Your 1004A/4. See my 2000B/3. It is intended refugees should be embarked.
(D.O.D. (F) 1552/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SEVERN.

Estimated P.C. and S. at 1200/4 034° 05' N 017° 32' W 012° 15 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1120A/4 to N.A. Stn).

S/Ms in Gulf of Genoa.

C. in C. Med's 1507C/3. S/Ms operating in the Gulf of Genoa will be greatly handicapped by the present instructions which permit them to sink without warning only ships identified as enemy. Request consideration may be given to extension of (? permisible) area.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1222A/4 to Admty). Reply: 0108/11

ARGUS, NEA HELLAS.

Your 2006B/3 only now received. ARGUS and NEA HELLAS sail at 1700B/4 to pass through 47.00 N 24.00 W at 1200B/8 steering 350°.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1258A/4, to Admty).
Return Gibraltar with NEA HELLAS and destroyer Acknowledge, report E.T.A.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2308A/4 to ARGUS).

Enemy shipping Intelligence.

Latest intelligence shows, (1) Shipping approaching Gaeta passes south of Ponza Island then through 180° Standarde Point 13. (2) Southbound traffic to Naples Lugs Coast and passes through Ischia Channel. (3) Traffic for Messina passes 009° Scilla Light 20.6 course 189°. (3?) Messina to Stromboli route 073° Rasocolino Point 11, 000° Rasocolino 3, 328° Rasocolino 6 then 328° to position 5 miles of Stromboli. (F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/4 to CLYDE).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

VICTORIOUS FURIOUS.	Technical details of transfer of aircraft from VICTORIOUS to FURIOUS. (F.O.C.N.A., 1702A/4 to Admty). Reply: (D.N.A.D., 1050B/5).
ARGUS NEA HELLAS.	Departure ARGUS escorting NEA HELLAS in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1258A/4. Local escort FOXHOUND, FURY, FORESIGHT. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1710A/4).
Italian Intelligence.	Following from Master of Neutral ship which left Genoa 30/5. (A) No warships seen in Genoa. New dry dock was empty B2. (B) S.S. AUGUSTES ROMA and VULCANIA still in port and SATURNIA arrived 28/5B. 2. Latter said to be going to embark German and Italian troops for Tripoli hearsay. (C) 4 Italian merchant vessels from 4/5000 tons loading war stores for Tripoli and one of 6000 tons discharging minerals loaded in Sardina D.3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1752A/4 to Admty).
Dakar Intelligence.	British Officers on Seaplane from Africa report sighted (?0900/3), 3 ships just clear of Dakar turning North. First passenger liner white upper works two or three funnels over 10,000 tons. Second smaller, third much smaller: these appeared to be warships. (N.A. Lisbon, 1836/4 to D.N.I.)
Enemy Unit.	At 1615 G.M.T. German surface unit bearing 307° 1st Class from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1840B/4 to N.A. Stn).
Air attack on P.32 31/5.	P.32 Reports at 1630B/31 sighted Heinkel 59 in 45.24 N. 09.41 W. which dived out of clouds at 500 feet. P.32 dived and aircraft dropped stick of 3 or 4 bombs which burst when P.32 was at 70 feet. (4) My 2310/3rd P.32 carried out attack on tanker and closed to 1700 yards but did not fire as target was difficult to identify. Ship was not armed and was wearing no marking.

Course.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Air Attack on P.32 31/5. (contd). Course indicated that she might have come from Ferrol. P.32 was averse to using her gun and further compromising her position in -her damaged state and sustained minor damage. (F.O.C.N.A., 1956A/4 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

INSPECTOR BENEDETTI. Argentine, 4172 tons, from which survivors were picked up by ASTURIAS, now known to have been a marine casualty. When last reported was still afloat though listing heavily 100 miles E. of Rio Grande do Sul. (D.S.638, 4/6)

SANGARA, (explosion 30/5). My 1131/31. Considered probable that explosion in SANGARA off Acera on 30/5 was caused by a torpedo from a submarine. Master of U.S. Ship ARTIGUS reports that in 4° 21' N 4° 40' W at 0325/31 he was asked his name by a submarine on the surface by lamp, no indication of nationality and possible it was French. (C. in C. S.A., 0100N/4 to Admty).

FRANKFURT (German). Loaded, arrived this morning, from Talcahuano. (S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro, 0825/4, 0958/4 to Admty) (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1245Z/4 2012/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)

SHROPSHIRE PRETORIA CASTLE CAMERONIA CILICIA RAPIDOL movements. SHROPSHIRE departed Capetown 1300 3/6 to arrive Freetown 15/6. PRETORIA CASTLE from Simonstown after being delayed by repairs guns mounted and CAMERONIA from Capetown to R/V with CILICIA at 0800/6. CAMERONIA and CILICIA E.T.A. Freetown 13/6. RAPIDOL departed Capetown 0900/4 for St. Helena and Freetown. E.T.A. St. Helena a.m./1[illegible] (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0915Z/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

/TRAFALGAR.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

TRAFALGAR.	Overdue shipping, TRAFALGAR due Capetown 29th, not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0945B/4 to Admty etc).
CONDYLIS.	Overdue shipping CONDYLIS due Durban 29th not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0946B/4 to Admty etc). Probably delayed by weather (see S.O.(I) Colombo 0754Z/5).
CALENDULA BRIDGEWATER.	Proceed to join BRIDGEWATER off Victoria Cameroons. Pass close off Lagos on passage, fuelling there if necessary. BERGENSFIORD expected to arrive at Victoria 5/6. CALENDULA is to act as additional escort to Lagos BRIDGEWATER to arrange R/V if BERGENSFIORD ready to sail before CALENDULA joins Submarines may be active throughout the area of passage, keep good look out. (C. in C. S.A., 1115N/4 to CALENDULA). Your 1115N/4 acknowledged. Amended T.of A. Lagos for log 0600/6. (CALENDULA 1400Z/4 to C. in c. S.A.)
GIANFRANCO Italian.	Is bunkering about 350 tons coal, possible more. (N.C.S.O., Buenos Aires 1150/4 to Admty).
MIGNONETTE.	C. in C. S.A. 1401N/3. In view of U-Boat situation in South Atlantic, MIGNONETTE should proceed independently at best speed to Freetown fuelling at Ponta Del Garda en route. (D.O.D. (H) 1154/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
CONGO, CAP VARELLA (French.)	My 0056B/4. For information. If is further reported that. (1) CONGO is carrying aeroplanes. (2) CAP VARELLA has on board Indo Chinese and 50 Colonial infantry officers believed mostly pro de Gaulle, and cargoes containing rails and iron girders. She may also embark aeroplanes. B.3 CAP VARELLA is bound for Madagascar and Saigon. (D.D.I.C. 1244Q/4 to C. in C. SA.)

/Enemy Unit.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

Enemy Unit.	My 1425/27 and my 2159/2. D.F.B. at 2157/3 suggests enemy surface unit within 150 miles of 010° E and 300 miles of 022° S.
SHROPSHIRE, CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA, PRETORIA CASTLE.	SHROPSHIRE steer to pass through position 027° S 011° E and then cover area about line up to 020° S 010° E. CARNARVON CASTLE and CILICIA patrol in K.1. B, CARNARVON CASTLE to N.W. CILICIA to S.E. CILICIA relieve PRETORIA CASTLE as arranged, PRETORIA CASTLE then take over CILICIA patrol. (C. in C. S.A., 1257N/4 to Ships concerned).
WARSPITE.	Admty 0030/28. Summary of defects in WARSPITE caused by bomb explosion between forecastle and upper decks at 124 station (? starboard) side. (C. in C. Med., 1358C/4 to N.A. Washington for B.A.R.M.)

/FRANKFORT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

FRANKFORT
HERMES
AEQUITAS.

German ship FRANKFORT appears about one third loaded. German ship HERMES loading now proceeding very slowly and appears unlikely ship will sail before early next week. Italian ship AEQUITAS has returned to anchorage after receiving about 1,000 tons bunkers. Although two Italian ships have now taken large quantities bunkers I see no sign of any cargo being engaged. (N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeriro, 1401/4 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

FRANKFURT
(German)

Arrival 4/6.
(Rio de Janeiro, 1411/4).

ROBERT HUGHES
Dredger sunk,
Lagos.

My 1230/4. (N.T. in W.R.) Request naval diver be sent to investigate damage. Vessel has sunk across entrance and if salvage impossible will have to demolish otherwise silt will interfere with depth of channel. At present sufficient room for ships to enter and leave (Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos. 1430N/4 to BRIDGEWATER).
D. of N.M. Lagos reports Government Dredger ROBERT HUGHES has sunk by explosion in harbour entrance 1230N/4/6 and that officers state cause torpedo. Port has been closed, am making further enquiries and have requested mine sweeping by Auxiliary Minesweepers as precautionary measure. BERGENSFIORD is due there about 10/6 and it may be necessary to cancel this movement. My 2243/30/5 to D. of S.T. refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 1945N/4 to Admty).

NEWCASTLE,
CARNARVON
CASTLE,
ASTURIAS,
ALCANTARA.

NEWCASTLE visiting Rio de Janeiro 5/6 to 7/6 remaining in Brazilian area till 10/6 then proceeding to Plate. CARNARVON CASTLE on joining R.A.S.A.D. about 6/6 is to patrol L. 31 L. 32. ASTURIAS is to R.V. with NEWCASTLE F.O. at daylight 14/6 to transfer stores, subsequently sailing for refit. ALCANTARA will fuel at Rio de Janeiro about 20/6 then resume patrol in K.32 K 33. I will arrange visity. (R.A.S.A.D. 1802Z/4 to S.A.D.)

/NATAL.....

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NATAL.	Following is description of German ship NATAL received from Santos. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1531Z/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Tug T.04.	Your 1249B/3 (11) H.M.S.A.S.GRIMWOOD. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1544B /4 to Admty).
ERLANGEN (German).	My 1631/3 ship had 1200 tons coal and 400 metric tons wood when she sailed from Puerto Montt on 17/5. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1904Z/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)
S.S.MATIANA.	MATIANA not sailing in S.L. convoy owing to limited fuel capacity. Sailing Halifax for convoy calling Trinidad for fuel. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1922N/4 to Admty).
WINDHUK (German) TEHIV(?) (Italain).	Santos reports repairs to damage previous done to machinery are probably causing delay in sailing WINDHUK and that they may be completed by Friday. Hull is being cleaned by Divers. TEHIV completed loading. (N.S.O. (I) Montevideo, 2134Z/4 to R.A.S.A.D., ?C. in C. S.A.)
Escort for BERGENSFIORD.	BOREAS, will arrive Lagos 10/6 and will act under your orders for escort BERGENSFIORD to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A.2141N/4 to BRIDGEWATER)
Decoy distress Message.	At 0600Z/5 Walvis Bay W/T Station is to answer an imaginary distress message (instructions.) (C. in C. S.A., 2121N/4 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
GIANFRANCO Italian.	At Buenos Aires is bunkering about 350 tons coal and possibly more. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2121Z/4 to S.A.D.)

/BRIDGEWATER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

BRIDGEWATER, BERGENSFJORD.

You should meet BERGENSFJORD if possible and escort in. Ship should anchor as close to a British port as possible, suggest Aboukir position 139° 3½ cables from Lucke Island. Establish patrol to seaward. Unlikely U-Boat will approach E of longitude 008° 11' 50" submerged but might on surface at night. Generally unlikely to dive in less than 9 fathoms but might in 8 if little swell. (C. in C. S.A., 2217N/4 to BRIDGEWATER).

CUMBERLAND S.L.76.

Request you will sail CUMBERLAND to overtake S.L.76 soon as possible and escort to U.K. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detach CUMBERLAND as necessary to proceed to Scapa for fuel if required thence to Chatham. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2237B/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

HERMES (German)
AEQUITAS (Italian).

Loading, proceeding slowly, appears unlikely will sail before early next week.
Returned anchor after receiving about 1,000 tons bunker.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2320Z/4 to S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

ISTAMBUL.

Danish broadcast 2/6 states Turkish ship of this name (N.T. in Lloyds) has been sunk 30 Kms. from Constanza cause not stated.
(D.S. 638, 4/6).

French Fleet, Beirut.

Source visited me on return from Syria and gave following military information. (1 - 4 -Air and Military.)
5. Coastal batteries which relatively modern and numerous all manned but at expense of field artillery which is weak. 6. Fleet in Beirut ready for immediate action.
(M.A. Ankara, 0830/4 to C. in C, M.E.)

/Italian.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.6.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Italain Ships.	Following from Consul Chanak. Italian ships ANNARELLA DORA C. and STROMBO passed for Constantza 1930 Turkish time 3/6. Ships sailed from Taranta and Brindisi. Their convoy assembly port was Valona. (N.A. Angora, 0927/4 to S.O.(I) Med).
DERNA.	Arrival Barcelona 4/6 from Genoa. (Barcelona 0940/4).
M.L. 1030.	Sunk 28/5/1941. All books thrown overboard in deep water in steel chest. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0957C/4 to Admty).
ANNARELLA, DORA C, STROMBO.	Italian tankers ANNARELLA , DORA C, STROMBO pessed Chanak 1930C/3 for Constantza from Taranto and Brindisi. Convoy assembly port was Valona. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1010/4 to C. in C. Med.)
DIDO.	Examination by diver has revealed no major damage. (details) Temporary repairs may allow speed up to 20 knots. Intend to sail for Aden a.m./5. (DIDO, 1053C/4 to Admty etc).
Benghazi bombed.	Operational Summary No, 359 up to 1200 hours. 4/6/1941. Night 2/3, 2 wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour starting 2 fires at base of Cathedral Mole. Day 3/6. Hurricanes made 32 Sorties providing standing fighter patrols throughout day over H.M. and Merchant Ships between Crete and Egypt. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1031/4).
Syria.	Intelligence (M.A. Ankara, 1130/4 to C. in C M.E.) See Lion Copy.
TZAR FERDINAND.	Ankara report Bulgarian TZAR ?(FERDINAND) passed Chanak 0600 Turkish time/2 for Aegean. Local Authorities informed. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1033C/4 to Admty).

/CAMPINA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.(contd).

CAMPINA (Roumanian).	Passed Istanbul in transit for Aegean (believed Greece) 9 hours G.M.T. fully laden petroleum products. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 127(05)/4). (Capt. S.1. 2545C/4 to PARTHIAN, TORBAY).
River Traffic to Kut.	My 0910/3. Operation consists of providing Naval Escort for convoy of 11 tugs and 22 barges from Basra to Kut-Al-Amara. Still impossible to obtain local crews and Indian crews being arranged for by Army have not yet arrived. In view of importance attached by Mid East to this movement being carried out at earliest possible date, I am also assisting by providing full gear for 7 tugs and gun crews for other craft. (S.N.O. P.G., 1216Z/4 to C. in C. E.I.)
RAMB IV.	N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik 2245C/29/5 not to all addressees position in regard to Italian Hospital Ship RAMB IV is that Admiralty has approved her being used temporarily by Army as a Hospital ship in Mediterranean and Red Sea. Subsequently she may be derated D and used for transport (?work) emptying civilians from Italian E. Africa. Italian Govt. informed. Crew of 121, to be replaced by British crew should be interned, any medical Church and hospital staff being disposed of in accordance with Art. 10 of Geneva Convention 1907 (Naval prize Manual p. 103 and 104.) Admty requested to confirm above action. (C. in C. Med., 1350C/4 to Admty).
Malta Air Raid.	C.S.R. Malta. Up to 1600 hours 4/6. Night 5/4 8 enemy aircraft attempted to raid the island between 1926 and 2240 hours. Bombs mostly in sea but some on land causing no damage or casualties. (H. Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/4).
Italian Troopship.	Medium sized Italian troop ship escorted by several destroyers arrived Kastelorizo 1st and was still there 1500/2. (Capt. S.1., 1715C/4 to Greek Subs. MEREUS, TRITON).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RAMB IV (Italian).	Your 0006Z/1. Confirmed nothing said by N.O.I.C. Massowa to give master impression Ship returning Italy immune from Seizure. (N.O.I.C. Massawa,0607Z/4 to C. in C. E.I.)
Force. T.	To be sailed for Colombo at 15 knots as soon as practicable after HERMES has embarked stores from BARPETA and JALAYAMUNA. (C. in C. E.I., 1132Z/4 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)
BATHURST LISMORE.	Intended programme for onward passage BATHURST and LISMORE: 5/6 leave Colombo 13/6 arrive Port Victoria - Seychelles; 15/6 depart Port Victoria, 21/6, arrive Aden. (C. in C.E.I 1226Z/4 to S.N.O.R.S. etc).
S.S. REVATI.	REVATI left Bombay 20/5 for Colombo not arrived. Reported from commercial source to have sunk in cyclonic storm near Calicut. Can you confirm. (S.O.(I) Colombo 1228Z/4 to Cdre. R.I.N.) Reply: 0620/5.
U.S.11.	(i) D. of S.T. 1354/29/5 and situation in M.E. both indicate strong possibility of transhipment of troops from the three large liners of U.S.11 into one carrying transports at Trincomalee. Under these conditions consider additional tugs there essential. None is available at Colombo. Re making tug SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL available at Trincomalee between 10th and 16th July. (C. in C. E.I., 1426Z/4 to R.O.C.R.I.N.)
Aircraft Cargoes Shatt-el-Arab.	Air Ministry X358 dated 12/4 repeated to me indicates that plan for extensive organization at Basrah to assemble waiting aircraft monthly is being pursued. Plan was presumably conceived long beofre German aircraft were in bombing or mining range of Shatt-el-Arab Defence against such a formidable problem fosters my view that immediate consideration should be given to any alternative plan such as erection of aircraft at Karachi and/or Bahrein so that valuable cargoes should not be risked unnecessarily by coming up a bottle neck 80 miles long. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf in 1731Z/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

/D'ARTAGNAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

D'ARTAGNAN. — Departure 4/6. Shanghai. (Saigon 1005Z/4).

America and West Indies.

WINNIPEG passengers. — Your 1008/29. Detention of Naval Officers would not materially affect efficiency of French cruiser and would increase friction with French Naval authorities. They should, therefore, be permitted to proceed at first convenient opportunity. (Head of M. 0001B/4 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

U.S. Aircraft Signals. — Your 2036/25. Air Ministry are arranging early despatch of Syko Machines and R.A.F. Syko cards to U.S. Aircraft of Atlantic Fleet, Support Force, and also for additional machines and cards for R.C.A.F. This should provide a satisfactory means of communication with U.S. Aircraft. (1st S.L., 0221B/4 to C.N.S., Canada).

REVENGE H.X. 128 S.C. 32. — E.T.A. 0600P/6 approaches course 340° LACONIA in company. EMPIRE SUNBEAM, EMPIRE CALIBRE, THORSHAVET, ALHAMA from H.X.128, MARITA from -S.C.32, lost touch in fog about 24/5 consequently unaware of amended route and changed destinations if any. (REVENGE, 0344Z/4 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

RODNEY. — ARMUK.317/ 3/6. Your UKARM 376 timed 0045B/3 give approx. date of arrival as uncertainty is inconveniencing U.S. Authorities. 1723/3. (B.A.R.M., 0604/4 to Admty).

ERLANGEN (German). — My 0942R/20/5 not to Admiralty or R.A.S.A.D. Montevideo reports German ERLANGEN arrived Del Plata, 3/6. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 0911R/4 to Admty etc).

/Operation.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

Operation of Newfoundland Force.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1441 31/5. Request confirmation that Cdre. Commanding Newfoundland Force will be responsible to me for operation of his escort forces in same manner as B.S. 3 is for N.A. Escort Force. The operational functions of both can be much decentralized and, in case of the N.A. Escort Force, guidance from C. in C. A.W.I. has seldom been required. In the case of Newfoundland Force it is realized considerable control will be exercised by A.C.W.A. but in view of Cmdre. Commanding being R.C.N. the question of responsibility requires clarification. An early reply is requested as I would like to discuss such matters when I meet R.C.N. authorities, in the near future. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1034Q/4 to Admty) Armaments confirmed see 2239/12.

CLEMENCE D'ARTAGNAN ERIDAN (French).

Letter from Lieutenant Poggi D'ARTAGNAN Manila dated 17/5 states he E.T.L. Saigon in CLEMENCE also ERIDAN has left for France with second captain of D'ARTAGNAN.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1119Q/4 to C.O.I.S. Singapore)

Lettered, Positions, Atlantic.

Pass to N.C.S.O.'s
It may often be necessary to re-route ships anywhere in Atlantic ocean. Lettered positions on ocean routes are never to be more than 500 miles apart.
In addition lettered reference positions about 500 miles apart and not less that 200 miles off the route are to be given to all ships, these reference positions being on the side of ocean route away from nearest mainland. (D.T.D. 1404B/4 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A. etc).

B.H.X.131

Sailed -
(N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1438Q/4 to Admty).

/LADY SOMERS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

LADY SOMERS.	Intend to sail at 1400P/5 for Area A.1. (Route) to arrive patrol a.m./10 LADY SOMERS is to keep W/T Watch in accordance with N.P.C.O. No. 2 when on home or North Atlantic Station and in accordance with A.F.O. '8' 1/41 Section A.C. table 2, when on A.W.I. Station. (R.A. 3 1604P/4).
B.H.X.131	Reasons for delays. (N.C.S.O., Bermuda 1525Q/4 to Admty).
ILLUSTRIOUS	Tentative date of completion is 15th November. (B.A.R.M. Washington, 1527/4 to Admty).
CLAM VANJA.	My 1001/3. Oiler CLAM now at Sydney C.B., with 9370 tons Admiralty cargo should be held and sent to St. Johns N.F., when VANJA proceeds to Halifax to reload, if required to supplement your requirements. (Dir. of Stores. 1606/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
H.X. and S.C. Escorts.	To co-ordinate movements of important ships from U.K. to meet your escorts in Western Atlantic, requested you will signal forecast of escorts you anticipate sailing with next six H.X. and S.C. convoys. Desired to sail two A.M.C.'s and one liner, all carrying personnel for Halifax and Montreal, from U.K., as soon as possible after 10/6. If possible therefre requested that a battleship may be arranged to escort the most suitable convoy with which there ships could be ordered to R.V. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1619B/4 to R.A.3).
Dakar Intelligence.	Following from Dakar dated 3/6. Graded AO. BRESTOIS and BANGKOK escorted by LAGAELLELOS expected to leave p.m./3. MAURICE DELMAS and CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN arrived. ALSINA which came with political refugees will return to Casablanca after staying here 4 months. Convoy of 6 ships escorted by 4 submarines and another Naval vessel expected to leave for Casablanca 3rd or 4/6. Another period of alarm exists in Dakar. (N.A. Washington, 1830/4 to Admty).

G.1.P.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

C.I.P.

St. Thomas arrival today French Tanker C.I.P. Requires 200 fuel oil and 2045 fuel oil as cargo.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 2059R/4 to Admty etc).

Belle Isle Straits.

Your 1914B/2 ships should be able to navigate Belle Isle Straits by 23/6.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2131Z/4 to Admty).

EMPIRE STORM. (Torpedoed 30/5).

Norwegian ship MARITA arriving St. John's N.F. at 2200/4 reports she has 42 men from EMPIRE STORM on board.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2350Z/4 to Admty).

Australia.

PERTH, repairs, HOBART.

Reference damage sustained by PERTH, Commonwealth Govt. is sending cablegram to S. of S. for Dominions which proposes refit takes place in Australia subject to work being within capabilities of Australian dockyards and with this provise offers to place HOBART at your disposal in lieu. C. in C. Med., is requested to advise A.C.N.B. Melbourne regarding reapirs. (A.C.N.B., 1217Z/4 to Admty, C. in C. Med).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SANGARA (torpedoed 30/5.) — C. in C. S.A. 0100N/4 (See South Atlantic).

RINDA (Torpedoed 31/5). — Norwegian 6029 tons, from Haifa for Freetown and U.K., torpedoed and sunk in Freetown area on 31/5. No further details received. (D.S. 638, 4/6).

EXPORTADOR PRIMEIRO. (sunk 71/6). — Portuguese trawler bound for Lisbon (2 Corrupt Groups) sunk by gunfire by unknown Submarine (?137) miles S.W. Cape St. Vincent 1500/1. Two killed. (N.A. Lisbon, 0959/4 to Admty) See also 1729/5.

EIBERGEN (torpedoed 3/6). — Your 1942B/3. Have searched area (?120) square miles chiefly N.E. of position. No trace of (corrupt group) survivors. Am proceeding through (?48°) 50' N 029° W. Visibility 5 miles improving. (SAGUENAY, 1000B/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

SIRE (torpedoed 31/5). — S.O.S. was received in Dutch S.S. ARUNDO from SIRE at about 0607 G.M.T./31 stating ship torpedoed. Position corrupt groups. (C. in C. S.A., 1223N/4 to Admty).

INVERSUIR (torpedoed 2/6). — Have embarked from Norwegian S.S. PARA 23 survivors of British tanker INVERSUIR torpedoed and shelled 2345Z/2 in 048° 28' N 028° 20' W. Captain 6 officers, 16 ratings. 23 missing. Last seen in two boats above position. Ship possibly derelict. (CORINTHIAN, 2100Z/4 to Admty).

VULCAIN (torpedoed 23/5). — Reported 32 survivors from S.S. VULCAIN arrived on French colonial territory recently. Vessels torpedoed 160 miles N.W. from Freetown at 2200/23. Severn killed by the explosion. (C. in C. S.A. 2301N/4 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.6.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

2230. At 2230 G.M.T. German U Boat bearings 305° 3rd Class from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0032A/4 to NELSON, CATHAY, MARSDALE, WELLINGTON).

0131 German U-Boat bearing 310 degs. 559 from Gibraltar at 0131.G.M.T.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0301A/4 to N.A. Stn).

2000/2. My 2340/3. After Malaga add "From Canary Isls.
(S.O.(I) Gib 1142A/4).

1230. Admiralty message A.F. position 06.23N 03.24 E. at 1230 /4.
(C.in C. S.A., 1230N/4 to G.B.M.S. 6).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1508B/4).

MOST SECRET.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

MATABELE has been damaged by striking submerged objects and is returning to Barrow in Furness at 8 knots.

Four ships fitted with fighter catapult aircraft are now operating in the Western Approaches.

British Air Operations.

Owing to bad weather, Bomber Command operations for last night were cancelled.

Enemy Air Operations.

H.M.T. NORTHERN SKY was attacked and slightly damaged at 0700 in 61° 17' N. 14° 12' W. She shot down the enemy plane.

Between 0110 and 0120 today enemy aircraft dropped 2 bombs near Parkestone Quay. Superficial damage was caused to 4 M/S Vessels. There were no casualties.

Bombs were dropped at Yarmouth early this morning. No damage is reported, though there is a U.X.B. adjacent to a factory engaged on Admiralty work.

/Balloon.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations. (contd).

Balloon Barrage Drifter LAVINIAL was bombed and sunk in the Thames Estuary early this morning.

Coal hulk HIMALAYA was damaged when an enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs in Portland harbour this evening.

Mining.

Operation P.W.10. — 3 M.T.B's from Harwich carried out a mining operation off the Belgian coast last night.

Mines were detonated off the Humber.

Thames Estuary. — Further minelaying in the Thames Estuary was suspected last night. M/S Trawler SORANUS and M.M.S. 39 were damaged whilst sweeping, WILDFIRE'S diesel launch was sunk and M/S Trawler ASH was damaged.

North Atlantic.

Genoa. — Netherlands S/M O.24 is to leave Gibraltar on 7/6 to patrol in the Gulf of Genoa area from 11/6 to 20/6, and afterwards in the Gulf of Amphibon.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE. — Arrived at Rio de Janeiro today wearing flag of R.A.S.A.D., on a 48 hour visit.

Vichy Ships, Dakar. — LIPARI, for Madagascar, and CAP TOURANE and FRANCIS L.D. for Indo-China, are reported to have left Dakar on 30/5, all under escort.

Mediterranean.

Western Desert. — C. in C. Med. reports that the maintenance of supplies to Tobruk is becoming increasingly -difficult. There is no change in the general situation.

5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi and Derna last night.

Alexandria Raid — About 12 enemy aircraft bombed the docks area at Alexandria last night, causing civilian damage and casualties.

Crete. — A summary of the personnel evacuated and warships lost or damaged in the Crete evacuation is contained in C. in C. Mediterranean's 0127/5.

Enemy Ships Torpedoed. — S.O.(I) Istanbul reports that the Italian STROMBO, which is there with a 15 ft. hole in her port side, was torpedoed by H.M. submarine 25 miles off Helles. He also reports (B.3) that the Roumanian CARMEN SYLVA was sunk while moving troops to Greece.

/RORQUAL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (contd).

RORQUAL. Has left Alexandria for Malta with a cargo of white oils.

Calabria, UPRIGHT. C. in C. Med. reports that UPRIGHT made a landing about 0200/28 [illegible]4 miles S.W. of Punto Stilo light, Calabria, and blew up the railway line.

Syria. The Admiralty today sent to C. in C. Med. a message referring to naval policy towards and action against Syria.

DIDO. Cruiser, bombed on 29/5, will be repaired at Brooklyn Navy Yard, and is to be sailed via the Cape if seaworthy for ocean passage.

LEANDER. Has arrived at Alexandria from East Indies to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

Americs and West Indies.

SHEHERAZADE. Under pressure from the U.S. the French tanker SHEHERAZADE is to be allowed to go on to North Africa though her cargo of oil is to be reduced. The SHEHEREZADE escaped from New Orleans and was captured by DIOMEDE on 21/5 and taken to Bermuda.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Orkneys Request for Rescue Tug.

During the last four days there have been three air attacks on coastal convoys between Loch Eriboll and Duncansby Head. The only tug on the North Coast of Scotland and in the Orkneys and Shetlands suitable for rescue operations is BUCCANEER and she is fully employed meeting fleet requirements. Request therefore early consideration may be given to basing a rescue tug in the Orkneys. (A.C.O.S. 2002B/5).

Six A/S Craft for Freetown.

Six A/S trawlers or whalers selected from following are to be sailed for Freetown as soon as possible. As they become available they should be sailed in O.G. Convoys breaking -off as necessary for coal at Fayal, Azores or oil at Punta Del Garda, Azores and thence to Freetown. On arrival at Freetown they will form the 33rd. Auxiliary A/S Group. (A.C.N.S. F. 2208B/5).

Allocations of A/S Trawlers.

In view of urgent requirements from abroad for A/S trawlers some changes in allocations have become necessary. Further signals will be made. (A.C.N.S. F. 2210B/5).

Movements.

LEGION

LEGION is to sail as soon as possible and steer to position 045° N. 027° W. Further orders follow. (C. in C.W.A. 0333B/5).
Comply with C. in C.W.A. 0333B/5. You are to sail as soon as prisoners have been landed and are to proceed at 20 knots. (Capt. D. Greenock 0602/5 to LEGION).
Proceed at 20 knots. (C. in C.W.A. 0822B/5 to LEGION).
Sailed LEGION in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 0333/5th. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0930/5).
Request you will instruct LEGION to R/V with MARSDALE and after embarking prisoners and documents return to U.K. with despatch. (A.C.N.S. H. 1200B/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1800B/5. Oil at Londonderry if necessay (C. in C. W.A. 2356B/5 to LEGION).

/AURORA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

AURORA. KENYA.	Arrived F.O.C. 2 C.S. in AURORA and KENYA. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0600/5).
ARGUS.	A.M. 1305B/29/5. Request arrangements be made for 4th flotilla to continue to operate under C. in C.W.A. for inward A/S escort of ARGUS and NEA HELLES meeting about 11th June. (D.O.D.H. 1734B/5 to C. in C. Plymouth).
TARTAR.	When released by RODNEY return to Scapa with destroyers in company. 2. Carry out A/S sweep on passage. (R.A.D. 1950B/5 to TARTAR).

U.S.A. Operations.

Recognition Signals.	Admiralty 1838/6/5. U.S. recognition signals continue as follows during June. (D.S.D. 1634B/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

M/V's attacked. 2 claimed as Total Loss.

Day 3rd June, night 3/4 June, and night 4/5 June, no operations took place owing to unfavourable weather conditions. Day 4 June. Two A/C each scored two direct hits on a 5,000 ton M/V thirty miles west of Vestbygd 58° 28' N. 5° 42' E. Vessel appeared to stop and is claimed as a total loss.
Six Blenheims attacked a 6,000 ton merchant vessel and four smaller vessels in Boulogne Harbour. Results were generally unobserved.
Six aircraft bombed The Mole at Zeebrugge and shipping alongside from 50 feet.
Twelve bursts were observed on The Mole itself and one direct hit on a 5,000 ton merchant vessel alongside, which is claimed as a total loss. Two gun emplacements were machine gunned as well as the Mole.
(H.Q.B.C. 1115/5).

Patrols.

Patrol STAND in operation. P.R.U. R/C of Kristiansand South and Aalborg. (C. in C. Rosyth 1116/5).
TROST, STAB, and R/C of Kirkenes now in operation. SLEEVE ordered for 1800/5.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1438/5).
A/S sweep by 3 Whitleys on parallel tracks 315° 15 miles apart from Butt of Lewis to a depth of 300 miles. Leave Butt of Lewis 1600/5. (C. in C. Rosyth 1443/5).
R/C of Narvik ordered to take off at 1900/5.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1602/5).

PEGASUS.
MAPLIN.
ARIGUANI.
SPRINGBANK.

PEGASUS, SPRINGBANK, MAPLIN and ARIGUANI are now operating in the Western Approaches. They are fitted with fighter catapult aircraft which may be flown off and operate without restriction against enemy aircraft when these ships are at anchor on coastal routes or anywhere in the Western Approaches.
(C. in C. W.A. 1205B/5).

/Night.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd).

Night Fighters. Use of Flares.

A. 233 5/6 Reference O.D.T.I. Part one para twenty-one defining use of flares as a hostile -act. Night Fighters may use F.A.I flares without notice by night from now onwards in eleven group area extending later to other areas. These flares burn only for some two seconds but several may be used in rapid succession each giving very intense illumination. Request all defence and observers be warned of this development in night interception and that these intermittent flares of relatively short duration should not be mistaken for the normal parachute variety which remain hostile unless previously notified. Request that need for maintaining secrecy of this information be stressed to all recipients. (H.Q.F.C. 1700/5 to Air Ministry.).

Search for BISMARCK.

Your 1747B/3. Aircraft were ordered by 15 Group not to use R/T in accordance with the existing policy for escorting main Fleet units. The subsequent cancellation of this order was not received by all aircraft. It is regretted that aircraft mentioned in my 1641B/28th May were not in fact keeping R/T Watch on 2,410 kcs but on VH/F R/T. (C. in C. W.A. 1806/B/5 to C. in C. H.F).

W.A. Proposed Procedure not approved.

A.964 5/6. Reference Fighter Command Signal 2A221 4/6. Procedure which C. in C.W.A. intends to adopt is contrary to I.S.R.C. Rules and is considered prejudicial to safety of other commands aircraft. Regret therefore Air Ministry unable to approve its adoption at present juncture. (Air Ministry 1900/5 to Adty.)

/Norwegian.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Norwegian Ship aground.

Reference Norwegian ship reported aground off Cap de la Hague. As all 19 group aircraft are grounded due to weather request attack may be arranged elsewhere. (C. in C. Plymouth 1933/5 to Adty.).
Your 1933/5. No 2 Group Bomber Command have already been given this target. (A.C.N.S. H. 2232B/5 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Enemy Air Activity.

NORTHERN SKY.

Was attacked by HE 111 in 061° 17' N. 014° 12' W. at 0700. Slight damage to retarder. No casualties. Shot plane down. No survivors. (NORTHERN SKY 0751B/5).

Yarmouth.

Unexploded bomb fallen 0430 adjacent Messrs. Johnson's factory engaged on Admiralty work. Temporarily evacuated. No naval damage or casualty. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0930B/5).

Harwich bombed.

Between 0110 and 0120 this morning enemy A/C dropped two bombs separately near Parkstone Quay. Superficial damage to four M/S Vessels. No casualties or other naval damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1000B/5).

BRITISH FORTUNE.

At 0045/5 2 E/A plotted off Duncansby Head. BRITISH FORTUNE apparently straggler from convoy E.C. 28 reported being attacked with bombs but no damage was sustained. (A.C.O.S. 1145/5).

/LAVINIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

LAVINIA L. — (Balloon Barrage Drifter) Sunk by enemy action early this morning as a result of near miss by bomb. Two casualties - not critical. (Commodore, Sheerness 1648/5).

Convoy W.N. Even. — One enemy A/C shadowing convoy METRIC. Position 57° 40' N. 1° 41' W. (ALYNBANK 1733/5).

Portland bombed. — At 2120 Junkers 88 flew low over Harbour machine gunning and dropped 4 bombs in Harbour hitting coal hulk HIMALAYA belonging to Channel Coaling Co. Hulk holed. No naval damage or casualty. Shore and ships guns opened fire. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2253B/5).

Mining.

Liverpool. — At 1055/4 one Ground Mine exploded by SA. Trawler. Probably laid 31/5. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0917/5).

Operation QJ. — The following minesweeping exercise will be carried out shortly. (Short title operation QJ) Details. (C. in C. Nore 1136B/5).

/Thames.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Thames Estuary. M.M.S. 39 damaged. Launch sunk.

Two mines detonated at 0046/5 and 0207/5 by S.A. Gear as follows. Details. The first mine put W/T installation out of action and caused considerable under water damage to SORANUS which only carried on with difficulty and eventually had to abandon sweep. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1220/5).

R.D.F. Plots from EAGLES both suggest possible minelaying in Area Edinburgh Channel Knob, and Barrow Deep on Night 4/5. Reports from balloon drifters on sites 21 and 26 suggest possible minelaying in area north of the Yanlet south buoy. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1648/5).

WILDFIRE's Launch.

At 1126 today WILDFIRE's Diesel Launch No. 39445 proceeding to Queenborough Pier from Sheerness Dockyard exploded a mine, was disinegrated, and sank about 250 yards. S. W. of Y.8. Mooring Buoy, off Queenborough Spit. No survivors. Bodies of the crew of four were recovered. (C. in C. Nore 1647/5).

On 4/6 Twenty mines detonated by S.A. Gear as follows. Four following detonations also occurred. M.M.S. 39 damaged by Mine at 1116/5 and returned to Base. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1830/5).

OCTANE. (Mined 24/5).

Dry docked 1530/5. (Salvage Officer, Falmouth 1605/5.).

Humber.

On 2/6 two mines swept in area X on N.W. corner of Q.Z. 851. (F.O. Humber 1632B/5). The following two mines detonated to-day. -Details. (F.O. Humber 2150B/5 and 2303B/5).

ASH.

(M/S Trawler) Mined half mile S.W. Knock John Buoy making water slowly. MAMMOUTH standing by. Hopes to tow to Sheerness. Request additional sweeper from Dover. (FERNIE 1832/5).

Send tug forthwith to assist MAMMOUTH towing ASH. (C. in C. Nore 2021B/5 to N.O.I.C Sheerness).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

STORA.
(Blew up 1/6).
Suspected sabotage.

My 2152/1. Board of Enquiry after uncompleted investigation finds that loss of STORA was caused by explosion (?) demolition of depth charge stowed in Asdic Compartment and that sabotage is suspected. Further investigation by C.I.D. is proceeding. Crew remaining Aberdeen temporarily. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1227/5).

TIRPITZ.

TIRPITZ observed carrying out gunnery exercises June 3rd North Rugen accompanied by one Emden cruiser and five small craft. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1751/5).

FINKENAU.

(German, 916 Tons) Now reported sunk last year but all crew saved. Not heard of since reported at Tallin on 11/1/40. (D.S. 639).

Murmansk Shipping.

Learn from press that full navigation now opening Archangel-Murmansk, also first vessel this year now arrived at Murmansk from Spitzbergen. (N.A. Stockholm 1759/5).

Casualties and Defects.

MATABELE.

Have struck submerged objects and following damage is evident. Maximum speed 8 knots. Returning to Barrow in Furness. E.T.A. 2000/5. (MATABELE 0549B/5).
Your 0549B/5. Is submerged object still dangerous to navigation. If so give details. (C. in C.W.A. 1014B/5 to MATABELE).
Arrival MATABELE. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1825B/5).

/TORBAY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. (contd).

TORBAY BELLE. (Motor Boat).	Delayed by engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 0828/5).
DORSETSHIRE.	Admiralty 1600B/1. Provisional date of completion 15/7/41. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1807/5).

Shipping and Convoys.

E.C. 29. F.N. 75.	To compete with mining situation in Humber it is important that E.C. 29 and F.N. 75 pass Outer Dowsing on time table. Any variation is to be reported to N.C.I.C. Humber as soon as known. (C. in C. Nore 1127B/5).
Convoy.	Proceed with all despatch to overtake and stop Oban portion. Inform HEBE to proceed in execution of C. in C.W.A. 1041B when relieved by you. (S.O. Escort Group 12 1204B/5 to TULIP).
Orders for OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, RICHMOND, RAMSEY.	To proceed to St. John's N.F. Remain with convoy till limit of endurance and be detached in company or independently at your discretion and are to search for survivors of torpedoed EIBERGEN and MICHAEL E (details of positions and dates) Destroyer to report P.C. and S. and E.T.A. St. John N.B. when well clear of convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 1046B/5 to Capt. (D) 4).
H.X. 127. ATHEL-QUEEN.	My 1757B/24 and your 2257B/26. ATHEL-QUEEN arrived Liverpool and Commodore states change of destination was not passed to him. Request matter may be investigated. (D.T.D. 1912B/5 to C. in C.W.A).

/WALLFLOWER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (contd).

WALLFLOWER. Altacarry Head Light 126° 10 miles. No sign of Convoy. Intend returning to base. Carrying out Minesweeping exercises tomorrow. (WALLFLOWER 1930B/5.).

W.A. Escort Forces. Request your remarks and proposals as in C. in C.W.A. 1245/1. C. in C. W.A. 1301/30/5 quoted conveys details of the reorganisation of the W.A. escort forces in accordance with the proposals in C. in C.W.A. 2241/26/5. (D.O.D.H. 2026B/5 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Route Signals and Telegrams. Pass to N.C.S.O's. To facilitate rerouteing of ships at sea, in future the number of days for which ships are bunkered is to be reported in the route signal in brackets after the speed of the ship.
N.C.S.O.'s when routeing ships between ports in the West Indies including Trinidad, South America and the Cape, are to include in the VESCA telegram the Masters estimate of quantity of bunkers required at next port of call. (D.T.D. 2136B/5).

C.W. 37. Now anchored in fog off North Foreland, has been ordered to return to Southend as soon as visibility permits. (C. in C. Nore 2333B/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders. My 1745B/28/5. No raider activity reported during past week. EUGEN in Brest 4/6. (D.D.I. C. 1005B/5 to C. in C.H.F. etc.).

North Atlantic.

VICTORIOUS. Your 1702A/4. 39 feet. (D.N.A.D. 1050B/5 to F.O.C.N.A).

0.24 Genoa Patrol. Your 1507C/3. Intend to sail Netherlands Sub. 0.24 for patrol at 2100A/7. (route) to patrol Gulf of Genoa Area. Estimated 0.24 will arrive on patrol 11th and leave this area on 20th. Intend 0.24 then to carry out 48 hours patrol in Gulf of Lyons to attack enemy ships trading with Spain and return Gibraltar 27th. (F.O.C.N.A. 1410A/5 to C. in C. Med.).

Portuguese Trawlers Sunk. My 0959/4 to BEDROCK and PROXIMO. Can I confirm to Portuguese Authorities and Press that no British submarine in vicinity? (N.A. Lisbon 1739/5 to F.O.I.C. Gib.) Reply: Confirmed no British S/Ms in vicinity. (R.A. Gib., 1726/6).

Suspicious Vessels. N.A. Madrid 1127/4th. Description tallies, but boats definitely sighted May 29th. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1848/5).

SEVERN. Estimated position 2000B/5. 039° 50' N. 15° 45' W. through 036° 25' N. 010° W. to Gibraltar 13 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1912A/5).

REGENT. Your 1507/3. Intend to sail REGENT for Malta at 2030A/7 (route). (F.O.C.N.A. 2110A/5 to C. in C. Med.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dummy "R" Report.	Following has been read:- Armed Raider. 014. 42 S. 003. 31 E. MATIANA suspicious warship. (Simonstown 0558Z/5) Cancel my 0558 De ZSC. (Simonstown 0720/5). W.R. Note:- These are dummies vide C. in C. S.A. 2121N/4.
MAURITIUS.	Simonstown departure 0928 5 MAURITIUS for Durban. Speed of advance 20 knots. E.T.A. 0600B/7. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0937Z/5 to Admty. etc.)
CUMBERLAND. S.L. 77.	Your 1308B/17 May. CUMBERLAND arrived Freetown 5/6. Propose she shall proceed to Bathurst pick up 27 Officers 110 ranks for U.K. landed from LONDON then join and escort S.L. 77 sailing 7/6 to U.K. (C. in C. S.A. 1155N/5).
NEWCASTLE.	Wearing flag of Rear Adm. S.A.D. arrived Rio de Janeiro 1230Z/5 and expected to leave on patrol 1230Z/7. (R.A.S.A.D. 1235Z/5 to Admty., C. in C.S.A).
LIPARI. CAP TOURANE FRANCIS L.D.	Following French Merchant Ships reported sailed from Dakar 30/5. LIPARI under escort for Madagascar, CAP TOURANE and FRANCIS L.D. for Indo China under escort. (D.D.I.C. 1327B/5 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.I)
ANSON. CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS.	Due to failure of steering gear ANSON collided with CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS when leaving Freetown today. Damage to ANSON not extensive and she will be ready to sail 6/6. Damage to bow CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS will require 10 to 14 days to repair and ship will not be able to sail in W.S.8B. Ship should be able to join W.S.9. (C. in C.S.A. 1327N/5).

/MIGNONETTE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

MIGNONETTE.	May call at Ponta Delgada for fuel about 12th June estimated will require about 150 tons fuel. (D.O.D.F. 1659B/5 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).
?CATCHER SEKSERN IMHOFF TREERN GRIB.	Arrives here 0740/5. (N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth 2044/5).
Minesweeping At Lagos.	My 1945/4th and Admiralty's 1202/5th. No magnetic minesweepers at Takoradi Lagos or Accra. DRAGON leaves Freetown 6/6 for these places with magnetic spar sweeps made locally at Freetown and to organise operations but this will take some days. Is probability of magnetic mines being laid sufficient to justify closing of port over considerable period involved with special reference to visit of BERGENSFIORD to Lagos. Request increase in minesweeping (?gear) asked for in my letter 577/07 of 6/5 be provided. (C. in C.S.A. 2047N/5).
Enemy Unit.	D/F bearings indicate enemy unit within 150 miles of 004° 30' N. 012° W. at 2101Z/4. (C. in C. S.A. 2257N/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation Report 46.

ILEX and HOTSPUR have joined GLENGYLE at Port Said. LEANDER has arrived here to join the Fleet.
2. Cyprus. M.T.B. 215 Intercepted an auxiliary Schooner purporting to be Turkish IKI KARDESHLER in position 035° 56' N. 032° 52' E. at 0015/3, ship was set on fire and resulting very heavy explosion corroborates other evidence that the ship was carrying petrol and had false papers.
3. Alexandria. Air raid on harbour and town 2130 to 2230/4 by about 12 aircraft. Little damage so far reported.
4. Malta Blenheim activities, see H.Q.R.A.F. Malta. 1855/3. (C. in C. Med., 00310/5 to Admty.)

Crete Evacuation

Summary of personnel, warship losses and damage, etc. (C. in C. Med., 01270/5) See Lion and Tiger copies.

Syria.

Your 11350/3. Your (a). Approved that Naval Forces should be held in readiness though not necessarily unobstrusively. Any subsequent action must depend on developments and be concerted with other Cs. in C.
Your (b) No action should be taken against French warships unless they attempt to interfere with our operations.
Your (c). Approved. (1st S.L., 0129B/5 to C. in C. Med.).

Oil Supplies.

Admty. 1953B/30/5/41 to N.C.S.O. Port Said. Oiler TURBO is being employed in accordance with my 2101/27/5 not to N.C.S.O. Port Said. This arrangement was made to enable 12000 tons of Haifa refined fuel to be available for the Fleet, replacement being made from commercial stocks at Port Said to meet internal commercial requirements at Haifa. (C. in C. Med. 10010/5 to Admty.)

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Operations.

Operational Summary No. 360 up to 1200 hours 5.6.41.
1. Western Desert 3/6. 3 Hurricanes on standing patrol over petrol ship near Tobruk intercepted 6 Me. 109's and severely damaged 1. Night 3/4 June 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi, badly damaging base on central Mole and starting fires at base of Cathedral Mole. R/C of Benghazi revealed 1 large 4 medium 4 small ships and 16 small craft in harbour.
2. Dodecanese. Night 3/4 June. 5 Wellingtons bombed Maritza Aerodrome Rhodes.
3. Crete. 1 Sunderland on 30/5 and 2 Sunderlands on 1/6 evacuated total of 5 R.A.F. Officers 7 airmen 49 other Officer 16 other ranks 7 Greeks from Sphakia to Alexandria total 84.
4. Syria 4/6. 4 Blenheims operating from Palestine bombed shell petrol storage tanks Beirut obtaining hits on 2 tanks. (H.Q.R.A.F. Middle East 1037/5).

Turkey.

Views of General Staff, interview of Adm. Kelly with Gen. Asim Gunduz. (N.A. Angora, 1133/5 to C. in C. Med.). See Lion Copy.

RAMB IV.

Your 19450/31. Present intention is that RAMB IV is to be detained for limited period only with minimum of six months. In view of this and considerable expense involved to make her suitable for hospital ship service, request immediate report whether ship is suitable in present condition for service as hospital ship or carrier for short voyages. (D. of S.T. 1137B/5 to P.S.T.O Egypt). Reply: 18390/6.

/Italian.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd).

Italian Tankers for Constanzia.	My 1010/4. First two tankers named passed to Black Sea after anchoring in Istanbul for six hours yesterday p.m. STROMBO still here with 15 foot hole in port side below and above water line forward of bridge apparently from (? torpedo). (S.O.I Istanbul 1222/5). (a) Further to my 1222/5, A.2 report STROMBO torpedoed by H.M. Submarine southeast Cape Matapan. (b) Report B.3 Roumanian CARMEN SYLVA sunk while moving troops to Crete. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1453/5). Cancel my 1453/5 para. (a) 1600. Correct report; tanker torpedoed 25miles off Helles when in company with two others escorted by at least three destroyers. Hit tanks three and four and much damage throughout, bunker tanks rivets started. Six wounded aboard. Unseaworthy, proceeds Constantza. Thirty plates needed repair unavailable here, cost of refit Turkey £100,000 probably two months. Report A.2, Turkish ZESQUE sunk by Italian (?submarine) between Smyrna Mersin. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1830/5).
Alexandria Raid.	Air raid 2100 to 2230. About 9 planes with big bombs 4 of which caused much damage native houses and probably 150 dead. Arabs of district mastered a concentration of incendiaries very quickly. (N.O;I.C. Alexandria 1310/5, to C. in C. Med.).
3 Cruisers sighted on 3/6.	My 1110B/3. UNIQUE sighted 3 cruisers at 1650B-/3 35° 22' 12° 45' Course 180° 25 knots. (Commander S.I. 1405B/5 to URGE).
Italian Ships.	Istanbul arr. 4/6 from Fiume ANNARELLA, DORA C, and STROMBO from Constantza Roumanian CAMPINA. Departure ANNARELLA DORA C, Constantza 5/6 CAMPINA Salonica 5/6. (Bayoglu 1530C/5).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta.
Air Report.
ROMAN EYM
unusable.

Malta C.S.R. up to 1600 hrs. 5/6 all times G.M.T. Enemy air activity. Night 4/5 nil. Day 5th 1 alarm possibly movement Sicily. Reccos. First Maryland Recco Southern part East Tunisian Coast no shipping sighted. 2nd and 3rd Marylands Recco Ionian sea to Greek Coast and 4th Maryland afternoon recco Southern part East Tunisian Coast not yet due back. Further to my "I" 344 30/5 Florida ROMAN EYM now reported badly burnt out and unusable. Cargo of wood and munitions and tanks carried in sections completely destroyed. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta 1650/5).

DIDO.

Your 15320/30. DIDO will be taken in hand at Brooklyn Navy Yard and should be sailed via Cape if seaworthy for ocean passage. (A.C.N.S F. 1826B/5 to C. in C. Med.).

Malta.

Defence in view of loss of Crete. Recommendations. (Governor, Malta, 1905/5 (G.M. 16656) to W.O., Admty, and Air Min.)
See Lion Copy.

Greek
Naval
Units
Proposed
employment.

Your 23580/2.
Greek Minister visited Admiralty yesterday to discuss future employment of Greek Naval Units. He was told. (a) It was not convenient for these ships to refit in India: (b) We hoped that the 6 destroyers, after refitting in Africa, would be allowed to proceed to Freetown and assist with convoy escorts in the Atlantic. AVEROFF and the repair ship also to proceed to Freetown, the latter to act as destroyer depot ship to the Greek destroyers: (c) The one submarine, after refitting, to operate from Gibraltar and escort convoys.
2. Request you will discuss this aspect with Admiral Sakellariou and if he agrees tell him that the question of where the ships will refit will be taken up at once.
3. What is your intention as regards the 3 torpedo boats, four submarines and one accommodation ship now at Alexandria?
(1st S.L. 1943B/5 to C. in C. Med.)

/A/C in...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.).

A/C in Middle East.

Your 00260/2. So far as we know, following forces specialised in Naval R/C are now in Middle East. Details. (1st S.L. 1954B/5). See Mediterranean Volume.

Situation report No. 47.

LEANDER has arrived Alexandria. COVENTRY, ISIS, HERO hawe sailed to join D2 and GLENGYLE at Port Said. RORQUAL has left Alexandria for Malta with cargo of white oils. -2. Western Desert. Maintenance of supplies to Tobruk is becoming increasingly difficult and petrol stock was down to 8 days. PASS OF BALMANA with further 10 days supply has now arrived safely and sailed with escort. VOYAGER, VENDETTA arrive Tobruk tonight 5/6 with stores. No change in general situation. 3. Submarines. UPRIGHT carried out landing 0200/28 approx. 4 miles South West of Punto Stilo Light Calabria and blew up railway line. (C. in C. Med. 2245/5).

CAMPINA.

4/6 Roumanian Ship CAMPINA passed Istanbul noon Turkey time for Aegean Sea. Destination believed to be Salonika. (Capt. S.1 2355C/5 to PARTHIAN, TORBAY).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. (Free French).	Admty. 1604B/18/5. Proposal re future employment. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0041B/5 to C. in C E.I., C. in C. Med.) See Operations Volume. (Reply from C. in C. E.I., 0506Z/8).
S.S. REVATI wrecked.	Your 1228/4. Comdre. R.I.N. Following was received on 31/5 from Reporting Officer Calicut S.S. REVATI 232 tons ashore 12 miles South of Ponani. Master dead Second Officer and Deck Serang missing. 21 survivors, no danger to navigation. R.O. Calicut has been asked to state chance of salvage. (S.O.I. Bombay, 0620/5, to S.O.I. Colombo). Your 1228/4. Following from Port Officer, Calicut, received 5th, refers. (Begins) Only ship is REVATI 230 tons wrecked 4 miles North Chowghat 12 miles South Ponani, no information of any other casualties or wreckage (ends). For full report of casualties refer to Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Dept. Madras. (N.O.I.C. Cochin, 1651Z/5 to S.O.I. Colombo).
CONDYLIS.	Your 0946/4 CONDYLIS was not due Durban until 7/6 and may be delayed by weather. My 1702/17 to you only refers. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0754Z/5 to S.O.I. Capetown).
DUCHESS OF YORK.	A.M. 1922/27/5. Will sail from Mombasa with S.W. 7A about 11/6. My 0738/3 (0738/3) refers. (C. in C.E.I., 0804Z/5 to Admty.).
Raider.	A.M. 1823/23. Interrogation of prisoners at Mombasa extracted no evidence that No. 33 was the raider concerned. In view of reluctance of prisoners to talk this is not considered conclusive. (C. in C.E.I. 1242Z/5 to Admty. etc.).
C.M.11. C.M.12.	Your 0740/3. Convoy sailing dates from Durban will now be CM 11 p.m/7 and CM 12 p.m/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1550Z/5 to C. in C.E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Ships.

C. in C. China's 0943/20/5. (Interception French ships bound for Madagascar Reunion) Presume information in your 0501/4 and similar signals is passed to Naval C. in C. Netherlands East Indies. (Head of M. 1457B/5 to C.O.S. Singapore). Confirmed (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0804Z/6).

America and West Indies.

WINNIPEG. (French).

Following officers and men are proceeding to Trinidad per steamer CUBA to man WINNIPEG.
My 0750/30, transmit urgently numbers and categories of volunteers from crew of WINNIPEG and of those unwilling serve. (D.S.T., 0058B/5 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

S.S. NYASSA.

Information received that Portuguese S.S. NYASSA which left Lisbon for New York 3/6 has on board notorious enemy agent called (?Siemens) DIOMEDE is not returning Bermuda to refuel and will be available to intercept ship if required. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1022Q/5 to Adty.) No special action to be taken. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1843B/7).

Casablanca and Dakar Intelligence.

My 1830/4 para. 4. Graded A.2. There are 55 airmen aboard these ships. One of them stated he and a group of his companions hoped to be intercepted and taken off by the British. (N.A. Washington, 0945/5).
My 0945/5/6 (N.T. in W.D.) (Report of 55 airmen on board ships leaving Casablanca)
Following from Dakar 3/6. Graded A.O.
Six ships sailed today for Casablanca escorted by four S/Ms and several small surface craft. (N.A. Washington 1110/5 to Admty.).

/CANDYTUFT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.).

CANDYTUFT. BUXTON. HONEYSUCKLE.	BUXTON proceeding Concepcion Bay to patrol. CANDYTUFT is there broken down. HONEYSUCKLE proceeding as soon as possible. Without delay pass to REPULSE. (Passing action taken). (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1317Z/5 to Adty). Cancelled (N.O.I.C. St. John's 1346Z/6).
T.C. 11 and escort.	My 1643/1. PASTEUR arrives St. John N.B. 8/6 for drydocking and WINDSOR CASTLE proceeds from Halifax after disembarkation of personnel 10/6 to St. John N.B. to drydock. Subject to unknown repairs required for various ships do not anticipate any delay in sailing date T.C.11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1411Z/5 to D. of S.T).
CANDYTUFT. VANJA.	My 1643/3. Oiler VANJA and CANDYTUFT sailed for Conception Bay P.M./4. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1419Z/5 to Adty.).
H.X. 131 escorts.	My 1332/3. In address for C. in C.A.& W.I. read C. in C.W.A. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1427Z/5).
S.S. SAMA.	Cancel my 2021Z/4. (2029Z/4 intended) Owing to engine defects SAMA cannot maintain full speed at present. Ship will sail in convoy for this voyage only. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1543Z/5 to Adty).
H.X. 130.	H.X. 130. Your 1821Z/1 gives 47 ships but your 1826Z/1 shows 52 request confirmation as to correct total. (D.E.D. 1618B/5 to C.O.A.C. Halifax N.S.).

/SHEHEREZADE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

SHEHEREZADE (intercepted 21/5).

My 0621/23/5 and N.A. Washington's 1921/29. It has been decided under pressure from U.S. to allow the S.S. SHEHEREZADE to go on to North Africa at a very early date. U.S. have agreed, however, that oil was to be reduced by 5,000 tons of petrol and 300 tons of lubricating oil and S.S. OPALIAN has been diverted to Bermuda for purpose of taking off these quantities. OPALIAN should reach Bermuda today and stated quantities of oil should be transferred to her immediately upon arrival. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1753B/5 to C. in C.A.W.I.).

Your 1753B/5 After transfer OPALIAN can take further 3,000 tons petrol. Should ship then proceed Curacao to complete. It is pointed out that as lubricating oil must be carried in petrol or ballast tanks it will require filtering before use. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1802Q/5 to Adty.).

RODNEY.

UKARM 397. RODNEY arrives Halifax about 11/6. R.A. 3 will inform you of further movement. (D.O.D.(H) 1828B/5 to B.A.R.M).

SALAMIS (explosion report.)

Your 0523B/30 to PRINCE DAVID. Master of SALAMIS on arrival Philadelphia reports he did not send any such message. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1856/5 to Navy Wireless London).

REPULSE.

Delayed by intense gale. E.T.A. Conception Bay about 1500Z/6. Requirements on arrival also replacement for 1 damaged Swordfish. (REPULSE 1928Z/5 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F).

/C. in C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd).

C. in C. to Visit Halifax.

Your 0150B/30, 1238B/2 and 1538B/4. I am assuming that situation is now clear and intend to leave Bermuda on 7th or 8/6 to visit Halifax and Ottawa, unless I hear to the contrary. (C. in C.A.W.I., 2251Q/5 to Admty.) Reply 2011B/6.

Australia.

PERTH.

Most grateful for the offer contained in your 1217Z/4 subject to repairs to PERTH being within capabilities of Australian Dockyards. (Adty. 2137B/5 to A.C.N.B).

MOST SECRET.

9

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

VULCAIN. (4362 tons) Clyde to Freetown in OG. 59 was torpedoed and sunk at 0001/24/5 about 160 miles N.W. of Freetown. 32 survivors were landed in French Colonial territory, 7 were killed by explosion. (D.S. 639).

ALFRED JONES. (torpedoed 1/6) Motor Vessel ALFRED JONES torpedoed at 1207 G.M.T. on 1/6. (C. in C.S.A. 1011N/5 to Admty.) British 5013 tons, outward bound from Ellesmere Port for Nigeria. (D.S. 640, 6/6).

INVERSUIR (torpedoed 2/6) MALVERNIAN is to proceed to search for 2 boats containing survivors from British tanker INVERSUIR torpedoed at 2345Z/2 in position 048° 28' N. 028° 20' ". Abandon search at sunset of 7th and return to X 1. (F.O.C.N.P. 1130B/5 to Western Patrol).

MICHAEL L EMBIRICOS. EIBERGEN INVERSUIR. A good look out is to be kept for survivors in boats of MICHAEL E torpedoed 048° 02'N. 029° 00' W. 1858/2 EIBERGEN 048° 02' N. 025° 06' W. at 0728/3 INVERSUIR 048° 28' N. 028° 20' W. 2345Z/2. (C. in C.W.A. 1610B/5 to RODNEY, SUFFOLK).

Portuguese Trawler. My 0959/4, position 35.40 N. 10.30 W. 1500, 1/6 submarine believed Italian fired 50 rounds before sinking EXPORTAI ORA. (N.A. Lisbon 1729/5 to Admty.) W.D. Note.- Former gave name as EXPORTADOR PRIMEIRO.

S.S. SANGARA. Repeating his 0109N/4. (C. in C.S.A. 1855N/5 to Adty.).

EIBERGEN. (torpedoed 3/6). Your 1130B/5 received. N.P.M. 267 at 0200B/6 EIBERGEN boats not found. My position is 047° 50' 029° 10'. (MALVERNIAN, 2300B/5 to F.O.C.N.P).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2220/4. Enemy S/M reported by A/C 49° 59' N. 5° 24' W. at 2220/4. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0048/5).

0048. At 0048 G.M.T. German Submarine bearing 305 class three. (F.O.C.N.A. 0215A/5 to N.A. Stn.).

My 0048 5th. Available M.L's from Dartmouth are to sail to relieve craft now hunting. TYNEDALE may be recalled as requisite for WHEEL. (C. in C. Plymouth 1456/5 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Dartmouth).

Your 0215/5. Approx. position of U-Boat was 49° N. 32° W. Suggest that single bearings obtained by Gibraltar should not be passed to Ships and Authorities. N.A, unless other evidence confirms U-Boat is in N.A. area. Admiralty promulgate position when obtainable from cross bearings and if it is considered useful action can be taken. (D.D.I.C. 1454B/5 to F.O.C.N.A).

2208/4. By D/F at 2208/4 G.M.T. position of German U/Boat was approx. 48° N. 11° W. U/Boat may be within 50 miles of this position. (D.D.I.C. 0350B/5).

0623 G.M.T. At 0623 G.M.T. on 11125 Kcs. German S/M bearing 315° third class. (F.O.C.N.A. 0743A /5 to N. A. Station).

Search. Cancel my 2310/4. TYNEDALE is to continue to hunt U-boat. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0908/5 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth).

0700. Unknown Submarine reported 37 8 N. 7 22 W. 0700/5. D.O. (N.A. Lisbon 1029/5 to Admty.).

/1319.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.6.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

1319. Am over enemy S/M in JZGP 2443 (62° 24' N. 79° 43' E (?)) S/M has dived. (A/C 1319/5). Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Am carrying out observation duty. (A/C 1348/5). A/C L's 1319 SANDWICH PHILANTE BUTTERMERE being sent. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1547/5 to C. in C.W.A).

0620Z. D/F bearing at 0620Z/5 indicate probably U/Boat within 100 miles of 016° N. 020° W. Reliability 55%. (C. in C.S.A. 1321N/5).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1420B/5).

At Trondjhem. It is reported that 4 U/Boats probably with Depot ship and tenders arrived Trondjhem 3/6. B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1751B/5 to C. in C.H.F. A.C.O.S.).

? in Med. Italian U-boat bearing 050° or 230° Third class 8500 k/cs for second regular (corrupt gp) same U-boat 080° or 260° Third class both very strong transmission. Probably in Mediterranean. (F.O.C.N.A. 1843A/5 to BIDEFORD, WRESTLER, VANSITTART, AZALEA, WELLINGTON, S.O. Force H.).

Sighting of H.G. 64 or O.G. 63. It is possible that H.G. 64 or O.G. 63 have been sighted and that 5 Italian U Boats are concentrating. (F.O.C.N.A. 2028A/5 to BIDEFORD, WELLINGTON, WRESTLER, VANSITTART).

1711Z. My 1843A/5. Further degrees indicate that this U-boat was within 100 miles of 034° 50' N. 013° 10' W. at 1711Z/5. (F.O.C.N.A. 2351A/5 to BIDEFORD, WRESTLER, WELLINGTON VANSITTART, AZALEA, SPEEDY.).

MOST SECRET.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Rear-Admiral Curteis, with acting rank of Vice-Admiral, has assumed the duties of Second-in-Command Home Fleet as from 0800 today. He continues for the present to fly his flag in AURORA.

To intercept an Enemy Supply Ship expected from the westward the S/Ms TRIDENT, SEALION, TUNA and RUBIS have been ordered to patrol the western approach to the Bay of Biscay from daylight tomorrow,

A photographic R/C of Brest at 1640 today shows SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and PRINZ EUGEN in their same positions there.

Instructions as to the circumstances in which H.M. Ships may conduct anti U-Boat operations in Spanish Territorial Waters have been issued by C. in C. H.F. today.

The ex-U.S. Coastguard Cutters WALNEY and SENNEN arrived in the Clyde early this morning from Halifax, making with LULWORTH a total of three of these vessels now here.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy W.N. 36 was attacked at 0042 and again at 0125 this morning off Montrose and the Norwegian TAURUS, 4767 tons, with the British QUEENSBURY, 3911 tons, were sunk.

At 0230 the A/P Trawler FORFEIT was bombed off Pennan Bay and 6 of her men were killed.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

M.T.B's 22, 31, and 34 left Harwich at 2159 to carry out Operation P.W.10 off Ostend.

At Liverpool 4 Mines were detonated during today, the Motor Minesweeper 2 being damaged by one of them; and a Mine, cut off Falmouth, was sunk by rifle fire.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Attacks on O.G.63.

Convoy O.G.63, escorted by WELLINGTON was attacked by U/B at 0430 about 120 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent, and again at 0545. BARON LOVAT (British) and TABERG (Swedish) were torpedoed.

At 0818 the Convoy was attacked by a Focke Wulf aircraft, and GLEN HEAD (British) was bombed and sunk.

At 1300, about 80 miles S.W. of St. Vincent the convoy was again attacked by U/B, but no ship was hit.

WELLINGTON had been informed at 2028A/5 that it was possible O.G.63 had been sighted and that 5 Italian U-boats were concentrating Several signals giving D/F positions of U-boats were passed to WELLINGTON on 5/6.

DUNKERQUE.

On a report being received by F.O.C.N.A. at 1730 that DUNKERQUE had left Oran, Force H was ordered by Admty at 2341B to intercept and sink her, but meantime a reconnaissance at 2200 showed her still at Oran.

Minesweepers.

L.L. trawlers SAINT MELANTE and RUNSWICK BAY, due at Gibraltar on 9/6 from Liverpool, are to be sailed for Freetown to operate under C. in C. S.A.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Suspected Mines. Following the sinking of the dredger ROBERT HUGHES at Lagos harbour entrance on 4/6, ports where mines are suspected are to be closed until magnetic sweeping has been carried out.

A/S Vessels. 6 A/S trawlers are to be sailed from Belfast for Freetown in O.G.65, and O.G. 66. Names are given in F.O.I.C. Belfast's 1802B/6.

Mediterranean.

Malta Aircraft. The Blenheim detachment at Malta for attacks on enemy shipping has been increased to 16 and will be maintained at this figure.

48 Hurricanes and 8 Blenheims arrived at Malta today.

PARTHIAN Is to proceed to Port Mitylene (Les Vos) to attack a concentration of caiques, and whence transports are expected to tranship a German garrison to the southward.

KELVIN -Damage to the destroyer KELVIN off Crete is more entensive than can be undertaken locally. C. in C. intends sailing her about 8/6 for Suez and Aden and has asked for a repair port.

Western Desert. Wellingtons again bombed Benghazi last night.

Malta Air Raids. Enemy aireraft twice raided Malta last night but caused no military damage.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Dhow Traffic, Somaliland.	As dhow traffic into French Somaliland is on the increase, C. in C. East Indies intemds to authorise H.M. and Free French warships to enter French Somaliland territorial waters, without which it is impossible to counter this activity.
River Transport towards Kut.	It has been decided to proceed with the provision of river craft to co-operate with the Army in operating against Bagdad.

China.

Vichy French ships.	Netherlands East Indies warships now have orders to investigate any Vichy French merchant ships using Sunda Strait.
Japanese Landing.	Japanese have landed on 2 of the Lema Islands, Known to have been Chinese smuggling entrepot between Hong Kong and Macao.

MOST SECRET.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Newfoundland. Newfoundland will constitute a separate command from that of C.O.A.C., Halifax. Cdre L.W. Murray, R.C.N., is appointed Cdre. Comdg. Newfoundland (short title C.C.N.F.) and will take over duties of N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.

SHEHERAZADE Owing to further developments at Vichy SHEHERAZADE, French tanker (see 5/6) is not to be allowed to proceed but is to be detained and her crew not allowed on board.

Concepcion Bay. BUXTON, HONEYSUCKLE, and CANDYTUFT are patrolling Concepcion Bay, where REPULSE was due this evening.

C. in C. The situation regarding PRINZ EUGEN being now clear, C. in C. is to leave Bermuda on 7/6 or 8/6 on a visit to Halifax and Ottawa.

Explosion Report. The mystery of an alleged report from S.S. SALAMIS of a heavy explosion in about 42.30 N. 43.48 W., at 2100 G.M.T./29/5 is deepened by an Ottawa message that the Master of SALAMIS on arrival Philadelphia denies having sent any such message.

U-Boat Campaign.

TREGARTHEN In addition to the sinkings in Gibraltar area today mentioned in North Atlantic TREGARTHEN was torpedoed at 2105Z/6 in 46.17 N., 36.02 W. about 675 miles east of Cape Race.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Spanish Territorial Waters.

H.M. ships in contact with U-Boats which attempt to escape by entering territorial waters of Spanish Morocco, Tangier of Canary Islands, may enter these territorial waters and continue attack, care being taken that lives and property on shore are not endangered. If whilst inside Spanish Territorial Waters contact is lost, hunt may be continued for one hour but at the end of this period, unless contact is regained, H.M. ships should leave territorial waters.
Attack must not be continued after U Boat has actually entered port of Tangier or ports in Spanish Morocco or Canary Is.
Attack must not be made in territorial waters of Metropolitan Spain or of other Spanish territory outside Spanish Morocco, Canary Is. and Tangier except when U Boat delivers attack on enemy from Spanish territorial waters in which case attacks should be returned at once in accordance with H.W.O.84, paragraph 2 (c) against which a notation is to be made calling attention to this signal.
(C. in C. H.F. 1037B/6).

KASTELHOLM.

If after interrogation of survivors of KASTELHOLM (finnish) you consider, as I do, that this ship was mined in the British Declared Area, you should inform the survivors of fact and give incident every publicity.
(A.C.O.S., 1155/6 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes.)
Your 1155/6. 37 survivors landed Thorshaven today including 2 minor casualties. One Finnish deck boy lost. Cause of sinking was 2 explosions, first in number one and second in bunkers amidships.
Evide ce favouring torpedo attack
(i) Track left by first torpedo observed by Second Officer.
(ii) Master and others in his boat declare having observed periscope after sinking.
Evidence against (i) Estimated position of sinking 065° 07' N 011° 18' W. (ii) Master followed German route to qualify for safe passage thereby offered.
Although I consider ship was torpedoed there is an element of doubt which Master now recognizes. Request further instructions.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1846/6 to A.C.O.S.).

/Second in.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Second in Command Home Fleet.

Rear Admiral Curteis has assumed duties of Second in Command Home Fleet with acting rank of Vice Admiral as from 0800 today. For the time being he will continue to wear his flag in AURORA. (C. in C. H.F. 1229B/6).

4th D.F.

Admiralty 1305B/29 last paragraph. If release of 4th D.F. from duties in channel is under consideration, suggest they should return to Home Fleet where their seakeeping and fighting qualities are valuable and the 4 A class be exchanged.
(C. in C. H.F. 1245B/6 to Admty).

BRIGAND to Scapa.

A.C.O.S. 2002B/5. H.M. Tug BRIGAND should be transferred temporarily to Scapa for Rescue Duties.
(C.C.R.T. 1348B/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BERWICK.

When ready for sea BERWICK should be sailed for Scapa to work up.
(D.O.D. H 1615B/6).

Six A/S trawlers for Freetown.

Rf. Admiralty's 2208B/5. The following trawlers have been selected. SOUTHERN PRIDE SOUTHERN GEM, RUMBA, FANDANGO, MORRIS DANCE SARABANDE. It is proposed to sail SOUTHERN PRIDE SOUTHERN GEM RUMBA with O.G.65 joining convoy off Belfast, and to sail FANDANGO MORRIS DANCE SARABANDE with O.G. 66.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1820B/6).

Movements.

WALNEY SENNEN.

Clyde arrivals Ex. U.S. Coastguard Cutters WALNEY and SENNEN.
(F.O.I.C. Greencok 0020B/6).

AURANIAN.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0701Z/6).

/MAPLIN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (contd).

MAPLIN. My 1543B/3/6. MAPLIN is expected to be ready for Operations A.M. 9th June.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1358B/6).

SEALION. Leave patrol after dark 8th June to R.V. at 180° St. Catherines 5 miles at 0500B/12. Route. (S.5. 1403 B/6 to SEALION).

LACONIA. Intend LACONIA to leave for Bermuda at 0930P /8. Expect to arrive 1330Q/10. LACONIA will be available BHX. 133 subsequently proceeding St. John N.B. for refit.
(F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1837P/6).

NIGERIA. C.S.10 in NIGERIA is to provide escort (Particularly A/A) for next S.L. Operation and is available from 9/6.
(ii) On completion of this duty NIGERIA is to reinforce KENYA on patrol referred to in my 1851B/6.
(C. in C. H.F. 1911B/6).

Operations.

Denmark Strait Patrol. MANCHESTER is to sail from Scapa p.m./9th. to Hvalfiord. After arrival of MANCHESTER C.S. 18 are to maintain Denmark Strait patrol. One ship is (?subsequently) to be on patrol and one at Hvalfiord.
(2) When relieved on patrol HERMIONE is to proceed to Scapa; (C. in C. H.F. 1212B/6).

Operation Q.E. Motor gunboat on operations Q.E.5 miles 80 degrees from Aldeburgh buoy.
(C. in C. Nore 1216B/6).
Departures M.G.B.'s 62, 64 and 67 at 2157.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2159B/6).

/Search for.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

Search for Enemy Supply ship.

Steer 130° with all despatch.
(F.O.S. 1751B /6 to TRIDENT, SEALION).
Enemy supply ship is expected from Westward.
Use every endeavour to establish patrols within ten miles of the following positions by daylight 7th June but take precautions not to be sighted by aircraft after this time.
TRIDENT 45° 52' N 07° 12' W.
SEALION 44° 52' N 07° 52' W.
Any eastbound target may be attacked near these positions. Total bombing restrictions arranged (F.O.S. 1854B/6 to TRIDENT, SEALION).
After dark today 6/6 proceed to following patrol position TUNA 046° 06' N 010° 06' W
RUBIS 046° 46' N. 010° 32' W.
(F.O.S. 1941B/6 to RUBIS, TUNA).

Iceland-Faeroes Patrol.

KENYA is to sail from Hvalfiord p.m.9th to patrol Iceland Faeroe passage West of mine barrier (ii) ARETHUSA is to leave patrol at 0800/10 and proceed to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1861B/6).

British Air Activity.

Fighter A/C for Gibraltar.

S. 543 6/6. My S.517 5/6. Flight of three Beaufighters delayed 24 hours. Expected time of departure St. Eval now 1000 hours G.M.T. 7/6. (O.A.M.C.U. Gloucester, 0810/6 to 200 Group, Gibraltar.).

Patrols.

Parallel track sweep by 3 Whitleys on course 315 degrees from Butt of Lewis to depth 300 miles reaching limit 1200. To be repeated p.m. today A/C reaching limit 2000
(C. in C. Rosyth 0816/6).
A/C on recco. of Kirkenes has reported by W/T that nothing was sighted.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1008/6.)
Your 12378/3. Request information of details of any standard patrols which it is intended to fly in Denmark Straits and that these patrols be given a code name for easy reference
(C. in C. H.F., 1213B/6).
Patrol SLEEVE now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1722/6).

/W.A. Command.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

W.A. Command Proposed procedure for convoy Escort A/C.

Following received. Repeats Air Ministry 1900 /5. (D.S.D., 1702B/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
Following received from Air Ministry regarding procedure in C. in C. Western Approaches' 1946B/31/5, and C. in C. Plymouth's 1310/31/5. (Repeats Air Ministry 1900/5).
Request you will forward for prior discussion with other services all proposals to vary recognition procedure from that laid down in S.P. 02312(2) and Air Ministry publication S.D. 158. (D.T.S.D. 1951B/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy W.N.36.
TAURUS (Norwegian 4767 tons) sunk.
QUEENSBURY (British, 3911 tons) sunk.

One tanker with damaged rudder in position 056° 50' N 2° 7' W. (ALYNBANK, 0120/6).
One ship bombed on fire position is 056° 50' N 1° 59' W. (ALYNBANK 0145/6).
Ship on fire 056° 50' N 001° 59' W.
Render assistance and report situation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0202/6 to SARDONYX).
W.N.36 attacked by A/C in position 56° 50' N 2° 7' W. at 0042/6 and again at 0125/6. On first occasion one tanker name unknown had rudder damaged and on second Norwegian motor ship TAURUS bombed and set on fire. Two injured men being landed in Montrose Lifeboat. Remainder of crew appear to have been taken off. Vessel making for Montrose, but is in danger of sinking.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0554/6).
138. My 0554/6. Norwegian TAURUS sank at 0642/6 when 130° GOURDON 4 miles.
Vessel on fire is the QUEENSBURY not the TAURUS. Survivors of QUEENSBURY have been embarked in S.S. BURNSIDE, but Master and Chief Officer are missing.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0715/6).
Your 0501/6. What steps have been taken to extinguish fire and take ship in tow.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0850/6 to SARDONYX).
My 0715. QUEENSBURY sank at 0822 in about 120° Gourdon 6 miles.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1025/6.)

/Your 0850/6.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy W.N.36 TAURUS (Norwegian 4767 tons) sunk. QUEENSBURY (British 3911 tons) sunk. (contd).	Your 0850/6. To play hose from close alongside ineffective. Boarding considered unfeasible until fire abated, ship's plating being red hot for greater part of length Ship was lying beam to wind but had been abandoned before my arrival, apparently because fire was approaching magazine. (SARDONYX, 1045/6 to C. in C. Rosyth). C. in C. Rosyth's 0554/6. Report from ALYNBANK of tanker damaged in Convoy W.N.36 was based on R/T message from LANCASTER at 0112/6. Neither ALYNBANK nor TARANTELLA saw anything of a tanker although latter was close to position given, proceeding to assistance of Norwegian S.S. TAURUS at 0120. Visibility was good and, as no tanker was included in W.N. 26, consider LANCASTER's signal probably referred to TAURUS who was leaking oil rapidly. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1801/6).
FORFEIT. bombed.	(A/P Trawler) Peterhead reports FORFEIT bombed off Pennan Bay at 0230. Following three reported killed and brought ashore. Names. Three more dead in ship, which is still afloat under tow. Remainder of crew landed at Fraserburgh, one seriously injured. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0553/6).
Convoy CAMEL.	Convoy CAMEL is being shadowed by one Enemy Aircraft in 53° 50' N 17° 10' W. (WINCHESTER 0600B/6).
Convoy WHEEL.	Help Convoy WHEEL. My Position 50° 10' N 5° 50' W. Course 356, Speed 6 knots. (TYNEDALE 1838/6). Fighter Aircraft are being sent to the assistance of WHEEL. (Plymouth 1906/6).
EMULATOR.	(Biritsh Trawler, 168 tons) Seriously damaged by A/C on 6/6 about 7 miles East of Scarborough (D.S. 642).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

P.W.10

Weather permitting operation P.W.(10) will be carried out to-night. (C. in C. Nore 1506B/6).

Departure M.T.B's 22, 31, and 34 at 2150. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2159B/6).

Liverpool, 4 Mines detonated. M M/S 2 damaged.

At 0805/6 one Mine detonated by S.A. Gear. Details.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1701/6). Mine report to 1800/5. Motor Vessel MYRMIDON detonated one mine 161 degrees Crosby Light. Vessel 1,1 mileswhile going astern after weighing. 1800/6 one Magnetic Mine detonated between C.9 and C.10 Black Buoys. One Acoustic Mine 101° Bar Light Vessel 7 cables. Both by M.M.S.2. Latter mine detonated underneath vessel. Seams and hull sprung. Vessel will be docked. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1801/6.)

Falmouth.

One mine cut in position 50° 11' 36" N. 04° 48' 27"W. Mine sunk by rifle fire. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2124/6).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats.

Indication E. boat activity vicinity Southwold. (C. in C. Nore 0235B/6).

Brest.

Preliminary report of photographic R/C at 1640/6 shows SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and PRINCE EUGEN in same positions. (D.D.I.C. 1930B/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

R.D.F. Sets in M/V's.

A. 2426/6. The answer to Admiralty letter M/TD/DEMS0317/41 dated 1st June and signal 1747B/5 dated 5th.June is being signalled as follows in order to save delay.
(Air Ministry, 1714/6.)

Enemy Rangefinding. Confusion by A/C or heavy smoke.

Experience during operation in pursuit of BISMARCK indicates that there is a good possibility of confusing the enemy's R.D.F. rangefinding by the use of aircraft.
Para XIV of H.M.S. SUFFOLK's 2221/29/5 to C. in C. Home Fleet only is relevant.
2. Request you will carry out trials as soon as possible to determine following points.
4. It is also desired to find out whether heavy funnel smoke produces any effect of R.D.F. Screens. (A.C.N.S. H 2018B/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

BRACON MOOR (A/S Trawler)

Departure Tug DIVERSION to assist BRACONMOOR with fouled propellor 052 degrees 58' N 001 degrees 08' 30" E.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0111B/6).

THAMES.

(Rescue Tug) Engine oil cooler. Auxiliaries badly damaged. Cannot repair by own engine room staff. Master has decided to return to Greenock immediately. (THAMES 1024/6).

T.L.C. 46.

My 1124/5. Sailing of T.L.C. 46 postponed owing to D.G. and compass defects.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1210/6).

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.31.

On time at R.V. with 30 ships, all now arrived. About 200 hours of fog, weather otherwise good.
(D.T.D. 1643B/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

O.G. 63 attacked by U/B and A/C.

O.G. 63 attacked twice 0430 and 0545. Several ships torpedoed. (WELLINGTON, 0450A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Enemy Aircraft bombing 35° 30' N. 10° 35' W. (WELLINGTON, 0818A/6 to Gibraltar W/T.)
My 0818A One F.W., one ship sunk. (WELLINGTON, 0820A/6)
Have abandoned hunt for U.Boat to provide A/A protection for convoy. (WELLINGTON, 0827A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Failing other instructions from F.O.C.N.A. keep 50 miles to port of route ordered and approach position Q on course 318°. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1024B/6 to BIDEFORD.)
WELLINGTON reported O.G. 63 attacked.(5596 ?at) 0430 and 0545 several ships torpedoed. WELLINGTON sighted U. Boat on surface at 0606 in position 035° 35' N. 010° 40' W. submarine dived 0617 believed hit by gunfire. At 0818 OG.63 being bombef by aircraft one ship reported sunk. One Catalina one trawler and two motor launches proceeding to assistance of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1047A/6 to Admty.)
Several torpedoes fired at O.G. 63 0 no hits 35.50 N., 9.54 W. (WELLINGTON,1300A/6)
Steer West with all despatch, further signal follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 1559A/6 to AZALEA)
CATALINA, call sign M.9.H.N., will provide escort from 2030 until 0900/7. Flares may be dropped not less than three miles astern of convoy. M.L. 129, M.L. 134 should join you at 2100. M.L. 132. M.L. 135 join you at 0600/7. AZALEA will join during night. All ships coming from Eastwards. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/6 to WELLINGTON.)

/my 1047 .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

+

O.G.63 attacked by U/B and A/C. (Contd.)

My 1047 6th Fleet Tug ST. DAY left at 1300 to tow in crippled ships if any. Aircraft sighted wreckage boats and rafts in position 035° 36'N. 011° 10'W at 1250 and reports trawler searching for survivors.
WELLINGTON reported at 1300 several torpedoes fired at O.G.63 in position 035° 50'N. 009° 54'W, no hits. Aircraft has not been able to locate convoy. Air escort for the night has been arranged, fog permitting. AZALEA and 2 more motor launches join convoy by 0600 7th and 1 additional trawler from Cadiz patrol is being sent.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1806A/6 to Admiralty).
Your 1235 A/6. Have missed convoy, my P. C. and S. are 035° 51'N 008° 46'W 264° 9 knots. Have insufficient endurance for prolonged search in area (? if required) for heavy tow. Request instructions.
(LOCH OSKAIG 2310A/6 to F.O.C.N.A).
Strong indication of an attack on O.G.63 is impending.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2332A/6 to WELLINGTON, IMPERIALIST).

SEVERN.

Steer to pass within 20 miles of Cape St.Vincent. Report your P. C. and S.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0910A/6 to SEVERN).
Reached destination at 1058 A/(? 6).
(SEVERN 1601B/6 to F.O.C.N.A).

H.G.64.

Remain with H.G.64 until meridian 015° 00'W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0932A/6 to WOODRUFF).

Morocco, Tangier, Canaries.

Policy for ships attacking U-boats which attempt escape by entering these territorial waters.
(C.in C., H.F. to Home Fleet, 1037B/6).
See Lion copy.

ARGUS .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.6.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARGUS.
NEA HELLAS. Admty.2006B/3 and 1734B/5 ARGUS and NEA HELLAS expect to pass through position 047° 00'N 024° 00'W at 1000 B/11 steering 350°. (F.O.C.N.A. 1142B/6 to Admty.).

French Convoy. French Armed Tug LA TOURTELLE escorting refrigerating BOREAL full, CAUDEBEC, FORTARCHAMBAULT unknown destination and trawler PIERRE POCHOLLE Westward in Territorial Waters.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 1203A/6, to Admty.).

Oran.
Casablanca. Air reconnaissance. Oran 4/6. 3 light cruisers 2 submarines plus one possible in floating dock. DUNKERQUE same position. Aerodrome in vicinity total 54 aircraft of which 30 large. Casablanca 3/6. JEAN BART usual position surrounded by nets, PRIMAUGUET, 1 French Cruiser LA GALISSONNIERE 2 French Destroyer L'ALCYON, 2 French Light Cruiser AIGLE, 1 French Destroyer LE HARDI, 6 escort ships, 1 French sloop BOUGAINVILLE, 2 large 2 small submarines. Booms in place at entrance. 3 Glenn Martin 2 fighters on aerodrome.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1232/6 to Admty.).

"Q" Reports. Following has been read. QQQQ position 48 50 N 27 16 W, followed by suspicious merchant vessel.
(O.A. KNUDSEN, 1238/6).
EMPIRE UNITY QQQQ 49.00 N 26.18 W followed by suspicious vessel (Ends).
(Valentia Radio, 1718/6).
Ref. Q.Q. Messages from KNUDSEN 1238Z/6 and EMPIRE UNITY 1718Z/6, presume you are taking necessary action unless you are satisfied reports refer to H.M. Ships. MALVERNIAN may be in vicinity.
(V.C.N.S. 2010B/6 to SUFFOLK).
Cancel your 2010B/6.
(MALVERNIAN 2130B/6 to Admty.).

Portuguese.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Portuguese trawlers sunk.
Your 1739/5. Confirmed no British submarines in vicinity.
(R.A. Gibraltar 1726/6, to N.A. Lisbon).

French Convoy.
Gibraltar 6/6 15.45 French Light Cruiser ALBATROS, THESEE, VILLE DE VERDUN, STRASBOURGEOIS, all full Eastbound.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1753A/6, to Admty.etc).

NEPTUNE.
In order that W.S.8X may not be delayed at Freetown, NEPTUNE is to leave VICTORIOUS and proceed to Gibraltar as soon as local A/S Escort joins proceeding after fuelling at best speed to Freetown.
(V.C.N.S. 1910B/6 to F.O.C.N.A).

SAINT MELANTE.
RUNSWICK BAY.
'LL' Trawlers SAINT MELANTE and RUNSWICK BAY arriving Gibraltar 9/6 are to be sailed for Freetown as soon as possible to operate under orders of C.in C., S.A.
(D.M.S.1919B/6 to F.O.C.N.A).

DUNKERQUE.
Information received at 1730 from secret source reliability unassessed states that French B.C. DUNKERQUE has left Oran.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1934/6 to S.O. Force 'H').
Your 1934/6. Reconnaissance at 2200 shows French Battle Cruiser DUNKERQUE still Oran.
(S.O.Force 'H', 2327/6 to F.O.C.N.A).
Ref. F.O.C.N.A.1934/6. On the assumptinn that DUNKERQUE is now on passage to Toulon at slow speed endeavour to intercept and sink her.
(1st S.L. 2341B/6 to S.O. Force 'H').
Your 1934A/6. Reconnaissance of Mers El Kebir to be carried out as soon as possible.
(1st S.L. 2343/6 to F.O.C.N.A).
Glen Martin leaves at 0500A/7 for reconnaissance of Oran.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2344A/6 to S.O. Force 'H').
Your 2345B/6. Glen Martin leaves 0500/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0012A/7 to Admty.).
In view of S.O. Force 'H' 2327/6, cancel my 0012/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0102A/7 to Admty).

Catalinas .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

Catalinas for A/S Operations.

Ref. Air Ministry signal X.87 * of 3/6 the 2 Catalinas referred to are to be used to intensify A/S measures as necessary during the next few days. (H.Q.C.C., 2000/6 to H.Q. 200 Group) + Not to Admiralty. Relevant portion of message reads:- "The 2 Catalinas are to remain at Gibraltar until further orders and are to be used by 200 Group for such urgent operations as are indicated by Coastal Command".

ARGUS.
NEA HELLAS.

Departure ARGUS and NEA HELLAS screened by VANSITTART, WILD SWAN, WAVERN in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1142B/6. (S.O.I. Gib. 2100A/6 to Admty. etc.)

South Atlantic.

BERGAMOT.

Anticipated BERGAMOT will be ready about 12/6. Intend to sail her direct to Freetown. (C. in C.W.A. 0926B/6 to Admty.)

BRUSH.

Cancel my 1154/2. BRUSH arrived 1/6. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0954N/6 to Admty.)

Troopships.

Information received to date gives following numbers of personnel for U.K. on returning troop ships either in or shortly due in South Africa. (D.O.D.(F) 1359B/6 to C.in C.S.A F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

DOMINE (Spanish).

DOMINE sailed from Fernando Po 31/5 for Las Palmas. Reported one German on board also Consular mail etc. If met all enemy mail to be removed, also suspend national if within scope of article 51 to 54 in C.B.1993 Ship then to be released. (C. in C.S.A. 1403N/6 to VELOX, COLUMBINE, ESPERANCE BAY, ASPHODEL, ASTER, MORETON BAY.)

/Cameroons .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

Cameroons. — Threat to Free French territories. Weakness of coastal defences. (Spears Mission Brazzaville, 1730/6 to W.O.)

A/S Vessels for Freetown. — Admty. 2208B/5. Following trawlers have been selected. SOUTHERN PRIDE, SOUTHERN GEM, RUMBA, FANDANGO, MORRIS DANCE, SARABANDE. Proposed to sail SOUTHERN PRIDE, SOUTHERN GEM and RUMBA with O.G.65 joining convoy off Belfast, and to sail FANDANGO, MORRIS DANCE and SARABANDE with O.G.66. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1820B/6 to C. in C.W.A.)

W.S.6 B. — Departure 1730/6 EXETER as Ocean escort for convoy W.S.6 B. Local escort BORRAS until 1800/8 HIGHLANDER until 0605/9. (C.in C.S.A. 1829N/6 to Admty. etc.)

Mines. — Your 2047N/5. Ports where mines are suspected should be closed until magnetic sweeping has been carried out. BERGENSFIORD should not enter Lagos until this has been done. In addition to magnet spar sweeps recommend sending one LL. Whaler to clear Takoradi and then Lagos. LL. and S.A. trawlers SAINT MELANTE and RUNSWICK BAY arriving Gibraltar 9/6 are being diverted to Freetown. A.M. 2359B/3. Skid generators in GENERAL BIRDWOOD and REDWOOD should be removed and fitted to local craft wooden hulled if possible. (D.M.S. 1918B/6 to C. in C.S.A.)
Your 1918/6. If Takoradi is closed to all traffic out or in until sweeping completed ships due there will have to be diverted to Freetown and this will be done. L.L. Whaler will leave Freetown 8/6 is not available before. (C. in C.S.A. 2341N/6 to Admty.)

/S.L.57 delayed ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

S.L.57 delayed.

In order to include 6 ships which would otherwise miss convoy sailing of S.L.57 postponed one day until 8/6. This may entail convoy being about 6 hours late at R.V. Ships have been delayed by difficulty over coaling labour. (C. in C.S.A.1925N/6 to Admty.)

NORFOLK. S.L.77.

Request you will sail NORFOLK as soon after arrival as practicable to catch up and escort S.L.77 to U.K. It is suggested that she should call at Bathurst to embark passengers landed by LONDON. (V.C.N.S. 1932B/6 to C. in C.S.A.)

Lagos closed.

Port of Lagos is closed until further orders. Proceed with BERGENSFIORD and troops embarked and CALENDULA to Freetown keeping well clear of coast; further route will be sent. (C. in C.S.A. 2111N/6 to BRIDGEWATER)

SHROPSHIRE patrol.

My 1257/4. After arrival at position 020° S. 010° E. patrol in J.1.D. (R.A.S.A.D. 2133N/6 to SHROPSHIRE.)

ARMERIA. BURDOCK. BELPAREIL.

C. in C.W.A. 1437/21/5. Request you will sail ARMERIA, BURDOCK, BELPAREIL through positions (F)015.00 N. 019.20 W. (G) (011?) 00 N. 016.55 W. thence to Freetown. (C. in C.S.A. 2141N/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Blenheims.	Your 1148B/29. Blenheim Detachment at Malta for attacks on shipping has been increased to a total of 16 aircraft and will be maintained at this figure. Necessity for reconnaissance fully appreciated and all steps are being taken to keep Maryland units up to strength. (D.O.D.(F) 0002B/6 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)
MAURO CROCE.	Departure 5/6 Italian vessel MAURO CROCE for Genoa. (Barcelona, 0510/6 to Fairmiss)
Alexandria Raid.	Operational Summary No.361 up to 1200 hours 6/6. Night 4/5. About 12 enemy aircraft bombed Docks area Alexandria. No bombs in Docks area but 15 houses and two shops outside damaged. No service casualties. 37 Civilians killed. 2 Hurricanes up but unable to intercept enemy through failure of searchlights to illuminate.
Benghazi bombed.	Night 4/5. 5 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour damaging base of central mole. 2
Derna combed.	Wellingtons bombed Derna. Day 5/6. Hurricanes maintained continuous Fighter Patrols over empty petrol ships and H.M. Ships returning Alexandria from Tobruk.
Rhodes bombed.	Night 4/5. 3 Wellingtons bombed Katavia Aerodrome, Rhodes.
Crete.	Night 4/5. 1 Wellington dropped 18 sacks of provisions for party of our troops near Spakia. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.1051/6)
TETRARCH.	Leaves (?Alexandria) 1930 (?C)/6 proceeding direct for Kithera Channel. (Capt.S.1., 1125C/6 to PARTHIAN amended 2025C/6)
Italian M.V.'s.	Report B.2 stated 15 Italian merchant ships sailed from Italy about 2/6 for Black Sea. (Capt. S.1., 1223C/6 to TORBAY)

/Iraq .....

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Iraq.	Denial of oil to Germany. Chief of Staff 126. (1st S.L., 1535B/6 to C. in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.
CAPO ARMA. (Italian)	Istanbul arrived 5/6. (Istanbul, 1518C/6 to D. of S.T.)
Ammunition, Reserves.	Question of reserves of H.A. ammunition now under urgent review. Request estimated rounds per gun fired from each nature of gun by ships in heavy air attack on 21 to 23/5. Requested every practicable step be taken to get figures as correct as possible as large questions of policy may depend on them. (V.C.N.S. 1619B/6 to Admty.)
Syria, Operation "EXPORTER".	Carry out operation "EXPORTER". D.1 day is 8/6. (C. in C. Med., 1638C/6 to Ships and Authorities Operation "EXPORTER")
PARTHIAN operation.	Proceed forthwith to Port Mitylene (Les Vos) 039° 06' 026° 35' where large concentration of Caiques is reported and where transports are expected to tranship German garrison to southward. Attack as early as practicable then return to Alexandria. No nets or booms or coast defence guns known. (Capt. S.1. 1721C/6 to PARTHIAN.)
Malta Air Raid.	C.S.R. Malta up to 1600 hours 6/6. Night 5/6. 3 enemy aircraft attacked the Island dropping some bombs on land which caused negligible damage, rest in sea. Second raid in the early hours by 4 enemy aircraft at 16000 feet. Bombs dropped vicinity Ta Kali and Hal Far, no military damage but slight damage to civilian property. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/6)

/TRIUMPH .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TRIUMPH.
RORQUAL.
TETRARCH.

Estimate TRIUMPH will be in (b) 033° 45' 022° 10' at 0500C/9. From B. proceed direct to reconnoitre Gavdo Island where there is reported to be an unknown number of British Military personnel. Endeavour to verify this but do not spend more than 24 hours on this reconnaissance. Embark as many as practicable and on completion proceed direct to Alexandria, signal any information obtained as quickly as possible. RORQUAL estimated position noon/8 034° 02' 023° 32' course 280°. TETRARCH estimated position noon/9 034° 33' 024° 03' course 306°. (Capt. S.1., 1745C/6 to TRIUMPH)

Enemy Shipping.

(a) Turkey W/T picked up about 1500C hours distress messages from ship 3 miles S.W. of Helles, presume torpedoed and beached, believed Italian. No Turkish salvage available; too bad.
(b) Report B.1 Bulgarian Steamer KN MARIA LUISA lost by explosion and fire in Piracus with casualties.
(c) My 1830/5 para. (a) Italian N.A. stated STROMBO torpedoed 1230C/3 3 miles west of Mavro Island. Believed correct. (S.O.I Istanbul, 1819/6 to S.O.I. Med.)

Operation "Rocket"

43 Hurricanes and 8 Blenheims arrived safely. Understand 1 Hurricane returned to carrier. (V.A. Malta, 1820B/6 to S.O. Force H.)

RAMB IV.

Your 1137/5 No. Minimum period required to make her suitable for short voyage three weeks. (S.T.O. Egypt, 1839C/6 to D.S.T. etc.)

KELVIN.

Damage is more extensive than can be undertaken locally. Intend sailing her about 8/6 for Suez and Aden. Request repair port may be indicated. (C. in C. Med. 1940/6 to Admty.)

/PERTH .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

PERTH.
HOBART.

Your 1217/4. Repairs to PERTH at present in hand are expected to render ship capable of 85% power by about 18/6. I would welcome her relief, but propose PERTH should be retained here until arrival of HOBART. (C. in C. Med. 1946C/6 to Admty.)

WARSPITE.

Your 1915/25/5. If temporary repairs to WARSPITE at Alexandria are limited to those necessary to enable her to steam to Durban as proposed in Admty. 2348B/26?/5, can they be completed in less than 8 weeks?. (1st S.L. 2149B/6 to C. in C. Med.)

Situation Report 48.

Western Desert. No material change. Moderate sand storms have held up operations.
(2) Submarines. UNIQUE torpedoed and sank a laden 1000 ton merchant vessel in Lampedusa Harbour at 0825/5. (C. in C. Med. 2302C/6 to Admty.)

ALICANTE. (German)

Private information received that ship and crew lost before 5/9/1940. Ship had not been reported since leaving Leghorn on 24/8/1939. (D.S. 640, 6/6)

Turkish Ferry Boats.

Admty. 1736/13/5. Request ship delivery contractors of Turkish ferry boats due Suez shortly be requested to instruct masters to follow instructions of D.S.T.O. Suez. C. in C. Med. has concurred in temporary retention of two for service at Suez and others may be employed at Suez until Turkish crews are available to take over at Mersin. (S.T.O. Egypt, 2353C/6 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

S.W.7. — My 0738/3. Intend OTRANTO due Mombasa 9th to sail with S.W.7 A. Report date convoy will be ready to sail. (C. in C.E.I. 0634Z/6 to N.O.I.C. East Africa.)

Operation. — C. in C.E.I. 0722/6. See Operations Volume.

Dhow Traffic, French Somaliland. — Force (Nairobi) represents dhow traffic into French Somaliland is on the increase and that from military point of view stoppage of this is most desirable. Intend to authorize H.M. and Free French warships to enter French Somaliland territorial waters, without which it is impossible effectively to counter this activity. The fact that ships may be fired on by French within 20 miles of their coast will be borne in mind. (C. in C.E.I. 1154Z/6 to Admty.)

Iraq Trade. — Your 0004/1. Establishment of friendly government in Iraq makes it desirable to resume normal trade with and through Iraq as soon as possible. Request your views and those of local military authority on general situation especially concerning probable date of resumption of commercial traffic through Basra. (Hd. of M. 2305B/6 to C. in C.E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

N.E.I. Navy and Vichy Ships.	I am informed that N.E.I. Warships now have orders to investigate any Vichy French Merchant ships using Sunda Strait. Such ships will be sent in to N.E.I. Port if found to be carting war material, oil, tin ? Pyra rubber or if Bona Fides of crew, passengers or flag are in doubt. (C. in C. China, 0341Z/6 to Admty. etc.) Your 1457/5 confirmed. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0804Z/6 to Admty.)
SAGITTAIRE (French)	Left 6/6 Haiphong. (Saigon, 0844Z/6)
Japanese Landing, Lema Is.	Aerial reconnaissance a week ago disclosed that two small parties of Japanese have landed on two of the Lema Islands. Subsequent reconnaissance confirmed that these troops total about 80 and are probably Naval landing party. Not yet clear whether occupation is intended to be permanent but these Islands are known to have been Chinese smuggling entrepot between Hong Kong and Macao indicating probable explanation of this move is to close one of the gaps in the Japanese blockade of Kwantung coast. Situation being watched. (G.O.C. Hong Kong, 2123/6 to W.O.)

America and West Indies.

FRANKFURT.	My 0956/4 not to R.A.S.A.D. Montevideo reports German Ship FRANKFURT arrived Riode Janeiro 4/6. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0949R/6 to Admty. etc.)
WINDSOR CASTLE.	The early arrival of S.S. WINDSOR CASTLE is of great importance. (R.A.S B.S. 1103P/6 to RODNEY)

/REPULSE .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

REPULSE.	Probably six hours late on my 1928Z/5. (REPULSE 1106Z/6 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F.) REPULSE's 1928Z/5. Serviceable Swordfish available at Halifax, but no crew. (R.A.3 B.S. 1121P/6 to Admty.)
ALMIRANTE LATORRE.	Chilean battleship (ex CANADA). Proposal to purchase. (Head of M., 1130B/6 to N.A. Santiago) See Lion Copy.
RESTIVE. PRUDENT.	Intend sailing H.M. Rescue Tugs RESTIVE, PRUDENT in accordance with Admty. 1318B/5 for St.Johns, N.F. in convoy O.B.C. 332 leaving Clyde 0100/9. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1201B/6 to N.O.I.C. Newfoundland)
SHEHERAZADE (Vichy)	Cancel my 1753/5. Owing to further developments at Vichy SHEHERAZADE is still to be detained and the crew should not be allowed to go on board. Instructions concerning S.S. OPALIAN follow. (Head of M. 1232B/6 to C. in C.A.W.I.)
Concepcion Bay Patrol.	Cancel my 1317Z/5. BUXTON, HONEYSUCKLE, CANDYTUFT now patrolling Concepcion Bay. C.O.A.C. Halifax pass to REPULSE. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 1346Z/6 to Admty.)
Shipping, Latvia Lithuania Estonia.	Questions have recently arisen regarding action to be taken with regard to Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian vessels. Present policy is that if engaged on American coastal trade they should be allowed to proceed. Otherwise ships are to be detained pending further instructions. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1542Q/6 to A.W.I. Stn.)

/Enemy .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

Enemy Shipping, Black Sea.	Following from Navy Dept. From U.S. Naval Attache Galamed. Graded B.2. (1) Italian tankers are using Straits regularly en route between Aegean Sea and Constanza. (2) A Roumanian shipping service has been established to Athens. (N.A. Washington, 1600/6 to Admty.)
C. in C. PRINCE DAVID.	My 10210/28. Following is amended programme. Flag will be transferred to PRINCE DAVID p.m./7. PRINCE DAVID will leave Bermuda p.m./7 arriving Halifax 09000/9. C. in C. will return to her about 17/6. (C. in C.A.W.I 17510/6 to Admty.)
CAMPINA. (Roumanian)	Following from War Dept. From U.S.Mil.Attache, Bucharest. Graded B.1. Roumanian tanker CAMPINA sailed from Constanza 3/6 for Piraeus with petrol. (N.A. Washington, 1802/6 to Admty.)
SALAMIS, explosion report.	Your 0523B/30 to PRINCE DAVID, Master of SALAMIS on arrival Philadelphia reports he did not send any such message. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1856Z/6 to Navy Wireless London.)
St. Johns Base.	Question of U.K. or Canadian responsibility. (Govr., Newfoundland to Dominions Office, 1941/6) See Lion copy.
Newfoundland Command.	Decided that Newfoundland will constitute a separate command from that of C.O.A.C. Halifax. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1441Z/31 is modified as follows:- Cdre. L.W. Murray R.C.N. is appointed Cdre. Commanding Newfoundland, short title C.C.N.F., from date of arrival at St. Johns. N.F., and will take over duties of N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. Capt. C.M.R. Schwert R.N. on loan to R.C.N. will take over duties of Maintenance Captain and pending arrival of additional officers duties of C. of S. Admty. are being requested to loan certain officer personnel for maintenance and operational escort force until such time as these are available from Canadian sources. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1941Z/6 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, etc.)

/C. in C. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.6.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

C. in C. Visit to Halifax. Your 2251/5. Situation now clear. Regret your plans have been upset. (1st S.L. 2011B/6 to C. in C.A.W.I.)
Arrangements detailed in my 1027Q/28 apply to period p.m./7 to 17/6 inclusive. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1804Q/6 to A. and W.I. Stn.)

KOS.VI. Please pass following to C. in C. Norwegian Navy. KOS.VI. Will dock tomorrow. Leave probably Tuesday for Greenock via St. Johns, N.F., if no other orders. Propose conscript Sub. Lieut. Hoel now Commanding go alone. Reliable Former Sub. Officer Gunner. Subsidiary Lieut. Sam Houlder. Signed Erling Hostvedt. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2026Z/6 to Admty.)

Newfoundland Force. To comprise a separate command. Area, etc. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2155Z/6 to Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.6.1941.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

O.G. 63.	Attacked by A/C and U/B. Several ships torpedoed. (See North Atlantic)
EMPIRE STORM	British, 7290 tons, which sent out an S.S.S. just after midnight on 30/5, now known to have been torpedoed and sunk in 55.00 N., 39.50 W. Was a straggler from H.X. 128 bound from Montreal for Loch Ewe with wheat. (D.S. 640, 6/6.)
BARON LOVAT TABERG (O.G. 63)	W.A.C.I. part 1 article 102. (A) No contact obtained. (B) Starboard. Rockets were fired. (C) One mile ahead of No 6. column (D) BARON LOVAT No 63 might be salved TABERG No 53 not yet known. (E) 0329A/6 position 035° 36' N., 011° 12' W., (F) 051° four hours no zig zag (G) Moonlight, sea calm. (H) U/Boat fired from about 4000 yards on starboard bow of convoy. (WELLINGTON 0834A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
SIRE (Torpedoed 31/5)	My 1228/4 N.C.S.I. 69. A. British SIRE. B. 31/5 0545 G.M.T. 08° 50' N., 15° 30' W. C and D. Dumped overboard in weighted bag. E. In 100 fathoms. G. Master. Sunk by two torpedoes in 17 minutes, 46 crew landed Freetown 6/6. (C. in C. S.A. 1546N/6 to Admty.)
TREGARTHEN	Following has been read. SSSS 2105 G.M.T. 46.17 N., 36.20W. TREGARTHEN torpedoed 2158 G.M.T. (ape Race Radio 2200Z/6)
ALFRED JONES (Torpedoed 1/6)	My 1011/5 N.C.S.I. 69 (A) ALFRED JONES (B) 1/6 1207 G.M.T. in 08.00 N., 15.00 W., (C) and (D) all books dumped including Commodore's set (E) in 2200 fathoms (G) Master. Very large submarine with very high level conning tower. Fired four torpedoes of which two hit. Ship sunk with one more torpedo later. Commodore Swaby and Staff, all passengers and all crew except two have arrived Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 2230B/6 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.6.1941.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

2128/5 — My 2351A/5. Another Italian U-Boat call sign 68A was in this vicinity at 2128Z/5. (F.O.C.N.A. 0057A/6 to BIDEFORD, AZABA, VANSITTART, WRESTLER, WELLINGTON)

0130 — U-Boat on surface sighted by STELLA CARINA in position 225° 35° N., 10° W., 696 at 0130 and chased. Contact lost and escort rejoined convoy. (BIDEFORD 0245A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0248
0030 — (Corrupt group) Italian U-Boat call sign 78G within 50 miles of position 037° 45' N. 011° 05' W., at 0248Z/6. U-Boat sighted on surface in vicinity of 034° 40' N., 010° (? 20') W., at 0030Z/6 (F.O.C.N.A. 0625A/6 to N.A. Stn.)

0823 — Italian U-Boat was bearing 305° 3rd class from Gibraltar at 0823 G.M.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 0947B/6 to N.A. Stn.)

2313/5 — U-Boat has been fixed by D/F within 25 miles of 052° 45' N., 028° 00' W., at 2313Z/5, probably homeward bound. (C. in C. W.A. 1018B/6 to VETERAN)

1058 — Following has been read. 1 S/M submerged my position 61.11N., 21.21 W. (A/C Duty C 1058/6)

Following has been read. CCM 1048 1 S B O E C S unknown. (A/C Duty C. 1105/6)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1345B/6)

1711 — By D/F at 1711 G.M.T. U/B in position 52° N., 21° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2006B/6)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.6.1941.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

By WELLINGTON

Submarine sighted on surface 035° 35' N., 10° 40' W. (WELLINGTON 0608A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 0608 A. Submarine has dived. Claim two hits by gun fire. (WELLINGTON 0617A/6)
Large oil patches were observed at 0645 A in approx. position 035° 38' N., 010° 40' W where U-Boat was last seen. No A/S contact was obtainable and it is considered quite possible that U-Boat was sunk by gunfire. (WELLINGTON 1145A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Have swept along track of torpedo with LADY HOGARTH for 6 miles without sighting U-Boat or obtaining contact. Am rejoining convoy. Additional escort trawler and (? motor launch) not yet joined. No sign of aircraft. (WELLINGTON 1350A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C.

Following has been read. Am over enemy submarine in position 55° 56' N., 8° 18' W. (A/C via Liverpool W/T 1045/6)
Following has been repeated. Enemy S/M previously reported was "periscope only sighted". (Via Liverpool W/T 1135/6)
Attack U-Boat in position 055° 56' N., 008° 18' W., at 1045B/6. (C. in C. W.A. 1116B/6 to SALISBURY)
Attack Report. Hudson Y 233. U-Boat at periscope depth 55.56 N., 08.18 W. Visibility 10 to 15 miles cloud base 1000 feet.
D/charges dropped. Two depth charges exploded about 50 feet apart and about 30 yards away from 1 periscope 2 points forward of starboard beam, no damage actually observed.
(2) 30 yards away from U-Boat 2 points forward of starboard beam no damage actually observed.
(3) 30 yards away from U-Boat 2 points forward of starboard beam. No oil or air bubbles observed but after depth charges had exploded periscope rose about 1 foot out of water and U-Boat appeared to be stationary.
Hudson was escorting SIDNEY STAR. Informed H. 39 by V/S which was about 20 miles away from position of U-Boat. H. 39 S/C for position but aircraft had to leave owing to patrol shortage relieving aircraft was not sighted. (Aldergrove, 1325/6 to Admty.)

/By A/C....

MOST SECRET

6.6.1941.
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

By A/C

Aircraft dropped depth charge in position 56°02 N., 8.19 W., at 1312 and stated sighted conning tower. BOADICEA, SKATE, PETUNIA were there at 1324. No ship could confirm. Search (3 Groups omitted)
(BOADICEA 1431/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
BOADICEA detach three Corvettes to hunt U-Boat in position 055° 56' N. 008° 18' W. 1045B/6 SKATE, ROXBOROUGH SALISBURY rejoin O.G. 64 if not in contact with aircraft co-operating. (C. in C. W.A. 1626/6 to BOADICEA, SALISBURY)
My 1431. Search abandoned as not contact obtained. Convinced aircraft misled by porpoises sighted from ship. Rejoining S.C. 32. (Cdr. D.4. BOADICEA 1630/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
Unless in contact corvettes detailed to hunt U-Boat are to return to convoy or base. (C. in C. W.A. 1940B/6 to BOADICEA)

By A/C

Following has been read. Addressed No 15 Rec. Group H.Q. Am investigating suspicious object as indicated in position Possible periscope - Position 56.26 N., 8.48 W. (A/C LL 6 B. 1943/6)
Enemy submarine previously reported - periscope only sighted. Have attacked with depth charge. A/C LL 6 B 1947/6)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Following upon indications that a U.Boat may be operating in the Denmark Straits, KENYA has been ordered to reinforce EDINBURGH on the Denmark Straits Patrol, AURANIA which had sailed for NP.72 this morning was ordered to return to Hvalfiord, and no A.M.C. is to patrol the Straits until further orders.

Convoy CW.37 was shelled this morning when off Folkestone and again near the SW. Gate Buoy by the Enemy Coastal Batteries at Gris Nez. No hits or damage are reported.

RUBIS, TRIDENT, TUNA and SEALION are patrolling the area 45° to 48° N. and 8° to 11° W. to intercept an Enemy Supply Ship, and SOKOL is proceeding to relieve SEALION on this patrol.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy CW.37 was repeatedly attacked by dive bombing A/C between 0005 and 0340 today commencing off Dover. The attacks were driven off by all weapons, especially by the Destroyer barrage; and 2 enemy A/C were shot down, one at 0110 by COTTESMORE and one by M.L.113 at 0215, no survivors being seen. ROEBUCK (Balloon Barrage Vessel) reported slight under-water damage, but none was sustained by any other vessel or by any of the 20 ships in convoy.

/4 bombs .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd.)

4 bombs were dropped at WANDERER at 0727 to the westward of Bloody Foreland without damage; at Aultbea the Boom Carrier ETHIOPIAN was slightly damaged by two near misses at 0957; and at Sheerness six bombs were dropped inside the Boom at 0210 by one low flying A/C without damage.

Mining.

2 Mines were exploded at Milford Haven, one of which sank an Examination Vessel; 2 were detonated in the Thames Estuary, one damaging the M/S Trawler ARCTIC HUNTER; the M/S Trawler EBOR WYKE was badly damaged by a Mine at Liverpool; and a heavy explosion, believed to be that of a Mine, occurred at 1430 one mile from Broadstairs Pier.

British Air Activity

Direct hits were obtained on 2 ships of 5,000 - 6,000 tons in convoy off Ymuiden, and on a salvage ship off Ameland.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys.

The Ministry of War Transport wish to include occasional ships in C.W. convoys for discharge at Newhaven.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Rocket"

S.O. Force H. reported at 0729 that Operation "Rocket" had been completed without incident. He estimates that passage of Force H. but no flying off, was observed by the French and unobserved by the enemy. Force H. returned to Gibraltar this morning and left again westward at 2230.

A/S Forces.

Following the attack on Convoy O.G. 65 yesterday measures have been taken for the temporary reinforcement of A/S forces in North Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

BERGENSFIORD. As Port Lagos is closed owing to suspected mines, BERGENSFIORD is being sailed direct to Freetown with the battalion embarked at Victoria, Cameroons.

Threat from Vichy. Chiefs of Staff warned C. in C. S.A. and G.O.C. in C. W. Africa today that in view of developments elsewhere, Vichy may act against British territory in Africa from tomorrow, most likely by air.
Precautions taken at Bathurst will include the removal of tanker LISS after fuelling corvettes returning from escort on 9/6. Merchant ships there have been directed to leave as early as possible.

LONDON. Is to remain temporarily on South Atlantic station, but it is necessary for the present for Admty. to retain control of her movements.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta. — Luqa aerodrome was raided last night, slight damage being done to the surface, and at dawn a machine gun attack was made on Hal Far aerodrome without damage or casualties.

Suez Canal. — It is inferred that the enemy is about to attack Suez Canal and Alexandria with mines containing a new fitting. Directions for dealing them were given in D.T.M.'s 1853/7.

DIDO. — Is not to proceed beyond Aden until it is confirmed she will refit in U.S.A.

Lybia. — Wellingtons again attacked Benghazi and Derna last night.

America and West Indies.

REPULSE Concepcion. — REPULSE which arrived at Concepcion Bay at 2200Z/6 decided for greater security to put to sea at dark tonight returning at dawn tomorrow, as only 2 corvettes were on patrol, one of which was defective. Admty. intend that Concepcion Bay should only be used for emergency fuelling as it is exposed to U/Boat attack. An oiler will be kept in Newfoundland for this purpose.
REPULSE is to provide ocean escort from Halifax to U.K. for T.C.11.

/WARSPITE .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

WARSPITE. Repairs to WARSPITE are to be carried out on the Pacific Coast at Bremerton Navy Yard.

Guns for M.V.'s. Since the passing of the Lend Lease Act it is legal to mount guns in merchant ships in U.S. ports, and proposals to this effect have been made by New York shipping representative today.

U. Boat Campaign.

U.S. Contact. The U.S.A. Task Force 2 reported a hydrophone contact with a submerged submarine at 2000/7 G.M.T. in 32.55 N., 29.30 W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

KASTELHOLM

Your 1846/6. Please report approximate interval between explosion and sinking of ship. In view of estimated position of sinking I consider KASTERHOLM was undoubtedly sunk by mine, and this fact should be strongly impressed on the survivors and given publicity. (A.C.O.S. 1055/7 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)
Your 1846/6. KASTERHOLM was in British declared Area and there appears to be no doubt that she was mined. You should act in accordance with 1155/6 from A.C.O.S. (D.N.I. 1318A/7 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)
Your 1055/7 understood. Interval between explosion 2 minutes. Course of ship 244°. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1940B/7 to A.C.O.S)

W.A. Escort Forces.

My 1301B/30. Paragraph 1 (B) add GARLAND Paragraph 2. (A) Delete GARLAND. (C. in C. W.A. 1150B/7)
My 1301B/30. 1. Organisation in para 1 amended by my 1716B/3 and 1150B/7 is to come into force forthwith.
(C. in C. W.A. 1313B/7.)

CAIRO

A.L.M.0716.8/41 of 26th/5. CAIRO will return from convoy escort about 10th/6. Propose she shall proceed to East Coast as soon after her return as HERMIONE joins Western Approaches Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1207B/7.)

W/T communication with A/C.

Your 1747B/3 and my 1806B/5. Request your remarks on following proposed future policy. Basic rule is that option to break W/T silence rests with Fleet Units. On arrival of aircraft for A/A duties however the norma practice should be to establish R/T communication.

/2.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

W/T communication with A/C-Contd.

2. This is desirable because in fighter aircraft R/T is pilot operated.
3. Since fighters are usually sent in response to requests sent by W/T in times of stress it is considered reasonable that the breaking of R/T silence should be the rule rather than the exception.
4. If agreed aircraft will be instructed always to answer when called by R/T.
(C. in C. W.A. 1251B/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

Necessity for Depot Ship at Hvalfiord.

C. in C. H.F. 1105B/29. Concur. (C. in C. W.A. 1327B/7)

VICTORIOUS

Your 1216B/31. It is the intention that VICTORIOUS shall become an operational carrier on her return from Operation "Tracer" about 20/6 and it is hoped to be able to allocate her to the Home Fleet. (1st S.L. 1531B/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

One S/M requested for Western Area.

F.O. (S) 1854B/6 and a.m. 0700B/1. When normal dispositions are resumed I hope one submarine will operate in the Western Area proposed in my 1256/13/5. (C. in C. Plymouth 2049/7 to Admty.)

Newfoundland Escort Force.

Request I may be informed whether Corvettes manned by Free French crews may be allocated to Newfoundland escort force. (C. in C. W.A. 2232B/7.)

Denmark Straits Patrol.

AURANIA is to return to Hvalfiord. No A.M.C. is to patrol Denmark Straits until further orders. There are indications of a U-Boat operating in Denmark Straits. (C. in C. H.F. 2326B/7.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Tyne. Fighter Cover for M/V. Anchorage.

Representation has been made by the Merchant Ships Technical Committee which meets periodically at the Admiralty in regard to lack of adequate fighter cover for merchant ships anchorage off the Tyne. Request you will remark and take any action you consider desirable with Group concerned. (D.T.D. 1558B/7 to F.O.I.C. Tyne)

Movements

AURORA — Scapa arrival F.O.C.2.C.S. in AURORA. (A.C.O.S. 0612B/7)

AURANIA — Sailed AURANIA for NP 72 (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0901/7)

SEALION — Cancel my 1403B/6 except para 2. (Capt. S. 5. 1037B/7 to SEALION)
Cancel my 1406B/6 (S.5. 1041B/7 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Fleet Tender A. — Cancel my 1126/7. Fleet tender 'A' is to remain at Methil pending further orders from Admty. (C. in C. Rosyth 1825/7)

TARTAR — Return to Scapa with despatch with your destroyer. (R.A.D. H.F. 2314B/7 to TARTAR)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Convoy C.W. 37 Shelled.

Enemy coastal batteries at Gris Nez fired about 19 rounds at Convoy C.W. 37 whwn off Folkestone between 0138 and 0154 today. It is also reported by FERNIE that Convoy and Escort shot down two enemy A/C during bombing attacks between 0004 and 0245. No reports of damage have been received. (V.A. Dover 1059B/7)
Two groups of five 2-4 Gun Salvos were fired at 0315 (sic) and 0150 from French coast, straddling Convoy near S.W. Gate Buoy. (FERNIE 1000B/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth) (C. in C. Portsmouth 1743B/7)

Search for Enemy Supply Ship

Cancel my 1856B/6.
A. SEALION TRIDENT proceed to reach following patrol position S. by daylight 8/6 if reasonably possible. Submarines may proceed with despatch but no undue risk is to be taken. TRIDENT through 46° 25' N., 08° 50' W., to 46° 38' N., 9° 42' W. SEALION to 46° 04' N., 09° 13' W. Subsequently leaving patrol after dark 8/6 as directed by S.5.
B. SOKOL proceed through 49° 08' N., 05° 54' W., to patrol in position 47° 16' N., 10° 03' W. (F.O.S. 1212B/7)
F.O.(S) 1212B/7. After reaching 048° 50' N., 006° 32' W., proceed in accordance with F.O. (S) 1824B/4. T.B.R. arranged 10 miles either side of a line joining 048° 50' N., 006° 32' W., and 047° 16' N., 010° 03' W. from 1200B/8 to 2300B/10. (Capt. S.5. 1609B/7 to SOKUL)
Leave patrol after dark/8 to R/V 180° Saint Catherines 5 miles at 0500B/12. Route. T.B.R. arranged as follows. (Capt. S. 5. 1612B/7 to SEALION)

M.T.B's off Ostend.

Weather permitting one unit of M.T.B's operating in vicinity of Ostend tonight. (C. in C. Nore. 1500B/7)
Departures M.T.B's 100 and 14. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2136/7)

/Search for.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Search for BISMARCK

Forward a summary of damage sustained from any cause during the BISMARCK operation together with comments on the lessons to be learned therefrom. (C. in C. H.F. 1552B/7 to Home Fleet, VICTORIOUS)

Denmark Straits Patrol.

KENYA is to proceed reinforce EDINBURGH on Denmark Straits patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 1907B/7)
C. in C. H.F's 1907B. Intend to proceed 0610Z/8. (KENYA 2101Z/7)

British Air Activity

R/C by American P.B.Y's on 31/5.

Your 1002B/7 following is a repetition of my 1303/30 to C. in C. H.F. Begins. R/C of King Oscar Fjord and Scoresby Fiord Area will be carried out by 4 American P.B.Y's leaving 0600 tomorrow May 31st. At 2000 BROOME leaves a position due North of North Cape as far as ice permits to provide W/T communication. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1046/7 to A.C.O.S.)

Patrols

The following patrols are being flown by Sunderland aircraft today to be on datum at 1400. 1. Fugle One. 2. A/S patrol of area 60° N., 09° W., - 60° N., 7° W., 59° N., 07° W.,- 59° N., 09° W. (C. in C. Rosyth 1100/7)
My 1100/7. Delete Para 2. (C. in C. Rosyth 1332/7)

Night Fighters Use of Flares.

H.Q.F.C. 1700/5. Request information be circulated as suggested, and that the defences be warned accordingly. (Air Ministry F.O. 6. 1238/7)

/Fighter.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Fighter Protection

Request fighter protection T.H.V. DISCOVERY II and Escort. Programme as follows. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1515B/7 to C. in C. Nore)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy C.W.37. 2 A/C shot down. ROEBUCK slightly damaged.

Help PEWIT 51° 4' N., 1° 16' E. (ATHERSTONE 0018/7)
Fighters have been despatched to convoy PEWIT (Dover W/T 0036/7)
Convoy attacked repeatedly by aircraft between 0005 and 0340, commencing off Dover, comparatively few bombs were dropped and many attacks driven off by all weapons, especially destroyer barrage.
COTTESMORE shot down one HE 111 at 0110.
At 0215 another aircraft, after being fired at by convoy, ATHERSTONE and FERNIE passed over M.L. 113 who obtained several hits, saw A/C in steep dive and heard crash. Tremendous explosion heard by FERNIE.
3. No casualties. Only damage is slight under water damage reported by ROEBUCK.
1000B/7 Ends. (C.inC.Portsmouth 1743B/7)
(FERNIE 1930/7)

WANDERER

One aircraft 1500 feet. 4 bombs, no damage. Position 055° 27' N., 013° 30' W. (WANDERER 0727B/7)

ETHIOPIAN

(Boom Carrier) Has been missed by two bombs, one ahead and abreast. No.2 hold. Slight leak has developed which at present is under control of ships' pump. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0957B/7)

QUEENSBURY (Bombed 6/6)

My 1025/6/6. N.O.I.C. Dundee reports trawler STURTON sank SS QUEENSBURY by gunfire after she had turned bottom up in approx. position 56° 47½'N., 02° 09' W. in 39 fathoms of water at 0830/6. (C. in C. Rosyth 1213/7)

/Thames....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Thames Estuary.

At 0210 twin engined plane flew low over the area inside the Boom and was engaged by LOCUST, BALMORAL and PRESIDENT HERIOT. Rear Gunner from the plane fired back in each case.
Plane identified as HE 111 by PRESIDENT HERIOT. Six bombs dropped close to LOCUST in position 8. No evidence of minelaying. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1635/7)

Mining.

Operation S.N. 64.

Propose to carry out as follows. Details. (R.A.M. 0846B/7) See Operations Volume Orders to SCOTT to proceed a.m./9 to lay Beacons. (R.A.M.L. 0847B/7 to SCOTT)
See Operations Volume.
My 0846/7. Request two destroyers to complete close screen may be sailed to arrive Port Z.A. by 1400/9. If two are not available, one can be accepted. (R.A.M. 0912/7 to C. in C. H.F.)
R.A.M's 0912/7. Request you will sail two destroyers. (C. in C. H.F. 1821B/7 to R.A.D.)

Humber

My 1632B/5. Now reported that a total of four mines (3 German type Y, one exploded, type unknown) were swept as follows. (F.O.Humber 1509B/7)

Broadstairs

At 1430 R.A.F. HSL 120 whilst returning to harbour speed of advance 32 knots a violent explosion with large column of water one cable astern of port quarter approx. position 120° from Broadstairs pier 1 mile, believed to be a mine. No damage to craft or personnel. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1458B/7)

/Liverpool.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Liverpool.
EBOR WYKE
(LL Trawler)
damaged.

At 1040/6 EBOR WYKE exploded one mine as follows. Details. Ship suffered extensive damage in engine room. Hull damaged. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1726B/7 and 1818B/7 and 2158B/7)

Thames Estuary.
ARCTIC HUNTER
(M/S Trawler)
Damaged.

At 1155/7. Two mines detonated by S.A. gear as follows. Details. Ship sustained some damage, believed slight. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1740/7)

Milford Haven.
Examination
Vessel No. 10.
Sunk.

At 0704/7 one mine exploded by sweeper. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801B/7) Examination vessel No. 10, damaged by mine explosion at 1450 today, subsequently sank when in tow. No casualties. Ship appears to have been off swept Channel. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1834/7)

Enemy Intelligence

Shipping at
Sassnitz.
EMDEN.

Sassnitz following observations made May 31st.
(A) Large number grey painted merchant ships in port with Alpine troops in vicinity.
(B) Eight small 15 foot half decked grey painted boats without motors arrived by train. These are entirely different Sturmboats recently arrived from Finland.
(C) Naval training school of three large four storied buildings in woods to southward of town.
(D) EMDEN in harbour. (Graded A.2.)
(N.A. Stockholm 1247/7)

Casualties & Defects

MELROSE ABBEY
(Grounded 28/3)

Intend sailing ABEILLE 4 to attempt refloat MELROSE ABBEY p.m. 9th 10th 11th. Tug returning Peterhead each night. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1606/7)

/REPULSE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.7.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties & Defects-Contd.

REPULSE — Admty. 1156B/7. REPULSE has had no practice of firing for 3 months After arrival, if service permits, 12 hours notice for steam for 3 days to repair weather damage and defects is very desirable. (REPULSE 2004Z/7 to B.S. 3.)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L. 74 — Congratulations on bringing your convoy S.L. 74 to U.K. with such success. P.L.M. 17 arrived safely at Madeira. (C. in C. W.A. 1618B/7 to Commodore Brook R.N.R.)

Outward Routeing Forms. — Method of despatch to Admty. (D.T.D. 1623B/7 to N.C.S.O's)

Newhaven — Ministry of War Transport wish to include occasional ships in C.W. Convoys for discharge at Newhaven. Do you concur? (D.T.D. 1723B/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore.)

Meeting O.B. Convoys. — My 1711B/3. A signal will be made to you in following form requesting you to sail escort to meet O.B. Convoys at eastern R/V escort to Western departure point, thence proceeding to St. John's N.F.
(a) Names of escort from Iceland
(b) name of convoy, (c) Names of escort from U.K., (d) Cdre's name and ship and number of ships in company, (e) Time of R/V., (f) position of R/V., omitting words north and west. (C. in C. W.A., 1728B/7 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

/Trawlers.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.6.1041.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

Trawlers from Iceland

My No. 679/O.S. 0813 of 29/5 add:- Iceland. All British and Faroese Trawlers returning from Icelandic waters to U.K. direct are to call at Reykjavik, Sedisfiordur or Vestmann Islands for sailing orders. It should also be impressed on Icelandic Government that no Icelandic fish carriers are to sail without calling at one of the above ports for routeing. (A.C.O.S. 1824B/7 to Admty.)

Use of Convoy Titles.

To facilitate quick reference all signals dealing with routes, etc. regarding specific convoy should normally refer to the convoy title. Reference to T.O.O. only are apt to cause delay owing to volume of traffic. (D.T.D. 1956B/7 to N.C.S.O's)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Oran Reconn., for DUNKERQUE.	Your 2343B/6. Glenn Martin leaves 0500/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0012A/7 to Admty.) In view of S.O. Force H. 2327/6. Cancel my 0012. (F.O.C.N.A. 0102A/7 to Admty.)
Operation ROCKET.	Completed without incident. Estimate passage of Force H but no flying off observed by French and unobserved by enemy. One Hurricane returned defective landed safely. (S.O. Force H, 0729/7, to Admty.)
DOMINE (Spanish.)	From Fernando Po 31/5 for Las Palmas ? reported carrying suspicious passengers, etc. If encountered, remove German national consular mail, and any enemy mail found. (F.O.C.N.A., 1028A/7 to N.A. Stn.)
Attacks on O.G.63.	Have following survivors from TABERG and BARON LOVAT torpedoed and GLEN HEAD sunk by bombs. BARON LOVAT - Master and entire crew in WELLINGTON. GLEN HEAD - 7 in ST.MELANTE, believed 8 in RUNSWICK BAY. TABERG - 6 in RUNSWICK BAY. RUNSWICK BAY has not yet rejoined convoy. (WELLINGTON, 1035A/7, to F.O.C.N.A.)
SANTA LUZIA intercepted.	My Arfar 359. Portuguese motor vessel SANTA LUZIA, Setubal to Tangier cargo 180 tons cement sent in by IMPERIALIST under armed guard. Has certificate of origin signed Consul Lisbon 2/6. but no ships navy certificate. A similar case was reported in N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1129/21. Am detaining vessel pending your instructions. (C.C.S.O. Gib., 1120/7 to M.E.W.)

/ARMERIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

ARMERIA.
BURDOCK. En route to Freetown pass through following positions. (F.O.C.N.A., 1256A/7.)
ARMERIA and BURDOCK also Norwegian ship BALPARCIL arrived Ponta Delgada 1530 G.M.T./7
(Ponta Delgada, 1640/7, to Admty.)

VICTORIOUS. WRESTLER expects to join you during daylight 8/6 to reinforce your escort.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1258A/7 to VICTORIOUS.)

ARGUS. There are indications that you may have been reported by Italian U-Boat at 0827. G.M.T.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1302A/7 to ARGUS.)

WATERMEYER. F.O.C.N.A's 1040 A/5 not to C. in C. S.A. Tug WATERMEYER should be routed via Freetown calling at Bathurst if necessary for fuel.
(D.O.D. (F) 1655B/7 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

BERGAMOT. Should be routed via Ponta Delgada. Fuel will be arranged. One officer going as Assistant N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada will take passage.
(D.O.D. (F) 1720B/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.G.63. Gibraltar section less TABERO arrived.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1840A/7 to Admty.)

A/S Forces. Measures for temporary reinforcements.
(V.C.N.S., 1916B/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)
See Lion Copy.

French Convoy. EPERVIER passed Gibraltar 1430/7 eastbound escorting French M.V.'s MARGUERITE FINALY (tanker) and EDEA, both laden.
(D.O.R., 9/6.)

/Force 'H'.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Force 'H' — Sails westwards at 2230.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2130A/7. to S/M O.24,REGENT.)

9th M.L. Flotilla. — To meet U-boat threat in Approaches to Gibraltar it is necessary for 9th M.L. Flotilla to be sailed as soon as possible for Portland where R.A.C.F. is to arrange for them to be prepared for passage to Gibraltar part of the passage being made in tow of H.M. Ships. Troon Base is to remain in operation.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2225B/7 to F.O.I.C., Greenock, R.A.C.F.)

Air Search. — Catalina Call sign M 9 H D leaves 0330 to carry out A/S search (area).
(F.O.C.N.A., 2320A/7 to VICTORIOUS, ARGUS, BIDEFORD, WRESTLER, S.O. Force H.)

South Atlantic.

MARIONGA (torpedoed 24/5. — Two survivors from Greek MARIONGA landed Monrovia 2/6. Report vessel torpedoed 70 miles off Liberian Coast on 24/5. Believed CITY OF RANGOON picked up three survivors from this vessel on 27/5.
(C. in C. S.A. 0113N/7 to Admty.)

CUMBERLAND. — Departure 1800/6. CUMBERLAND in accordance with your 2237B/4/6.
(S.O.I. Freetown 0155N/7 to Admty.)
Admty., 2237/4 CUMBERLAND leaves ?Freetown 1800/6 will overtake convoy S L 76 11 (?) /6 in about 035° N., 022° W., then escort to position V, 051° 50' N., 020° 00' W., thence to Scapa in future fuel. C. in C. A. & W.I., requested to issue onward routeing instructions from position V.
(C. in C. S.A., 0401N/7, to Admlty.)

/Your 1434/.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

LIEUT. ST. LOUBERT BIE.

Your 1434/9/4.
Log shows left Dakar 7/5 and before interception passed through following positions:-
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1015/7, to Admty.)

SCOTTISH MONARCH.

Overdue Shipping SCOTTISH MONARCH due Freetown 2/6 from Loch Ewe 9/5 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1030N/7, to Admty.)

Bathurst.

Air Ministry X. 802 2/6. Anti aircraft for Bathurst to be sited as follows:-
(O.C. R.A.F., Bathurst, 1183/7. to Air Min.)

BERGENSFIORD ABOSSO.

My 2047/5 and Admty., 1918/6. As Port Lagos is closed owing to suspected mines BERGENSFIORD is being sailed with battalion embarked at Victoria direct to Freetown. ABOSSO diverted to Port Harcourt will have unloaded passengers and cargo there by 14/6. May ship be used and second Nigerian battalion embarked there or at Lagos if open by then and brought to Freetown arriving about 20/6?
(C. in C. S.A., 1131N/7 to Admty.)
Reply: 1903/10.

Vichy and W. Africa Bathurst precautions.

Following from Chiefs of Staff to C. in C. S.A., and G.O.C. in C. West Africa:
In view of developments in other parts of the world, strong possibility that Vichy France may act against British territory in Africa beginning from tomorrow, 8/6.
Air attack is most likely form of action.
(1st. S.L., 1155B/7, to C. in C. S.A.)
In view of my 1155B/7, desirable that Tanker LISS and other Merchant Ships in Bathurst should move to Freetown. Also that ships loading in West African ports should be sailed independently for Bermuda or Sydney C.B. for convoy instead of Freetown. (A;C.N.S.(T) 1530B/7 to C.in C.S.A

/Your 1530/7/6..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Vichy and W.Africa Bathurst precautions. Contd.

Your 1530/7/6. LISS will fill the one oil lighter at Bathurst and should remain there to fuel corvettes returning from escort on 9/6, then has orders to leave. Intend that convoy S L 77 shall sail 8/6 from Freetown as arranged. As Lagos and Takoradi are likely to be closed for some time, unlikely many ships will be able to leave west coast ports for the present as these two ports are almost only fuelling ports. Instructions will be given that these ships are to be sailed to Bermuda or Sydney C.B.as fuel allows when loaded and ports open. Merchant ships Bathurst have been directed to leave early as possible. Are ships now bound there being diverted by Admiralty? Suggest EAGLE and DUNEDIN be informed fuel will not be available Bathurst after 9/6.
(C. in C. S.A., 1823N/7 to Admty.)
Your 1155/7 and my 1823/7. Should be grateful for information as to full scope of situation as early as possible. Though sure state of affairs at Freetown is well known, feel it my duty to point out that there are no aircraft, fighters or bombers here and A/A defences are inadequate. R.A.F. accommodation at Hastings has no order of priority as yet and building is proceeding very slowly.
(C. in C. S.A., 1949N/7, to Admty.)

Italian M.V.

Pernambuco reports there are indications that one Italian ship may ask clearance this afternoon Saturday.
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 1419Z/7.)
My 1419Z/7. Italian Lati Aeroplane which left Natal yesterday went out to sea instead of following usual overland route, returned after 22 minutes alleging radio failure which was soon repaired and plane took off on normal route. Suggested flight may have some connection with report that Italian ship might ask clearance to-day.
(S.O.I. Monte Video, 2312Z/7, to S.O.I. Freetown.)

/URBINO.....

War Diary. 7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

URBINO oil & wreckage report.

URBINO at 1000Z/24 in approx., 005° 10' N., 025° 45' W., passed through large oil patches 1½ miles in diameter and at 1800Z/24 in approx., 004° 05' N., 025° 20' W., sighted 1 wing of wrecked aeroplane with British markings.
(S.O.I., Simonstown, 1530B/7, to Admty. etc.)

CITY OF DURBAN. CAPE SABLE.

Your 1923N/19/5. Approved to employ both CITY OF DURBAN and CAPE SABLE as A/S "Q" ships on your station.
(D.O.D. (F) 1850B/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

LONDON NORFOLK SHROPSHIRE.

Your 2113 N/30 and A.T. 1932/6. Request passengers still in LONDON to be disembarked on her return to Freetown for conveyance to U.K., in NORFOLK and SHROPSHIRE.
(V.C.N.S. 1900B/7, to C. in C. S.A.)
LONDON will remain temporarily on your station on completion of present operation, but it is necessary for the present for Admiralty to retain control of her movements.
(V.C.N.S. 1915B/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

Bathurst Air Base.

Air Ministry's X.802 of 2/6 timed 1810/2. Advance party is in W S 8 X and remainder in W.S.9A with 7 vehicles and 20 tons of stores. Request you arrange to transport each party to Bathurst with least possible delay, as Hudsons cannot operate till party arrives. Request report date Advance Party will arive Bathurst.
(A. C. N. S.(T) 2240B/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greece and Crete.	Lessons of German Air Attacks. (C. in C. M.E., 0315/7 to W.O. etc.) See Lion Copy.
Benghazi Bombed.	Op. Summary No 362 up to 1200 hours. 7/6. Night 5/6, 11 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi Harbour causing many explosions and fires at bases of Central and Cathedral Moles. Day 6/6. Hurricanes provided fighter protection off Egyptian coast for supply ships returning from Tobruk.
Crete.	Day. 6/6. 1 Hurricane and 1 Maryland reconnoitred South coast of Crete unsuccessfully for party of 600 soldiers and airmen reported East of Sphakia on 2/6. No movements observed on tracks in centre of Island, no shipping at sea North of central Crete. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E., 1054/7.)
Greek Fleet.	Your 1943/5. Adm. Sakellariou opposed to project of sending ships to African ports. He asked whether 2 destroyers could not go to Bombay (? to refit) and one stand by at (?Verde), GEORGIOS AVEROFF and HISPAISTOS and one submarine to Port Sudan, latter to dock there while remainder continue to (?work) in Mediterranean. (C. in C. Med., 12550/7, to Admty.)
Operation "Exporter" (Syria.)	Your 1638C/6. N.T. in W.D. Request information as to what part the Fleet is taking in "EXPORTER" and whether it includes prevention of sea borne supplies entering by Latakia. (1st. S.L., 1529B/7 to C. in C. Med.)

/Your 1529B/7.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Operation "Exporter" (Syria.) Contd.

Your 1529B/7. Following forces taking part. Force B. C.S.15 in PHOEBE AJAX KANDAHAR KIMBERLEY JACKAL JANUS supporting left flank of army as requisite. Force C Capt. (D) 2 with GLENGYLE COVENTRY and four destroyers attempting landing mouth of Nahr Litany River 0200C/8. GLENGYLE and two destroyers return to Port Said on completion, remainder (? to join) force B. 2. Sufficient force would be detached if reconnaissance reveals supplies approaching or reaching Latakia. (? No) such indication has yet been received. 3. 6 Swordfish and 2 M.T.B's stationed in Cyprus cover approaches to Syria from Westwards and Sunderlands are doing reconnaissance further to westwards towards Crete.
(C. in C. Med., 18290/7, to Admty.)

ALBERTA. (French.)

My 1819/6 para. A. (re distress signal picked up by Turkey W/T.) Tanker is French ALBERTA. Severely damaged engine room flooded, French N.A. here requesting Turks today to endeavour to tow ship to Istanbul.
(S.O.I., Istanbul, 1657/7, to S.O.I., Med.)

Malta Air Raids.

C S R. All times G.M.T. up to 1600 hours 7/6. Enemy air activity night 6/7. 11 enemy aircraft over singly between 2100 to 0140 hours. Target Luqa where damage done to surface and runways now serviceable. 1 Blenheim direct hit but engines and many other parts undamaged. No other damage or casualties. Day 7/6. Dawn machine gun attack on Hal Far Aerodrome by 4 ME 109's with 8 ME 108's above covering. No damage or casualties. Night 6/7 June 5 Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. to attack M/V 3000 tons and escort vessel shadowed by Maryland and reported at 1848 hours in position 35.20 [illegible] N., 11.09 E., course 300° 6 knots. Swordfish found ships at 2115 hours in position 35.37 N., 11.05 E., course 060° 7 knots. 1 Swordfish dropped flares and 3 others identified ships as French with navigation lights. Fifth Swordfish released torpedo which did not run. All Swordfish returned base 3 with torpedoes.
(H.Q., R.A.F. Malta, 1700/7.)

French M/V's and Destroyer.

/Alexandria.....

MOST SEC

War Diary. 7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Alexandria Air Raid. Operational Summary No. 363 up to 1200 hours 8/6 Egypt. 7/6. Reconnaissance of Alexandria by single enemy aircraft was made morning and afternoon. Tomahawks up but no interception. Night 7/8. Two waves of enemy aircraft of about 20 and 24 respectively bombed Alexandria Harbour. Fires started in harbour area and one large mine exploded near a ship. Filter room 252 wing damaged by bombs and a small petrol dump set on fire in vicinity of operations room. R.A.F. Personnel prevented fire from spreading in Egyptian Civil Area round harbour. One enemy aircraft destroyed by A.A.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1836/7.)

Enemy Mines. It is inferred that enemy is about to attack Suez Canal and Alexandria with mines containing a new fitting. Suspected these are parachute mines. Important to obtain a sample if possible. Directions for anti-mining.
(D.T.M. 1853/7 to R.A. Alexandria, S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.)

DIDO. Admty., 1826B/5. DIDO is not to proceed beyond Aden pending final confirmation that she will refit in U.S.A.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1945B/7 to C. in C. Med.)
Your 1826B/5. DIDO sailed with following main armament ammunition.
(C. in C. Med., 2037C/7 to Admty.)

Suez Canal Mines. Your 1545/15/3 and in continuation of my 1957/31/3. Most unlikely that seismographs or geophones could usefully be employed in Suez Canal for detecting the fall of parachute mines.
(Head of M., 2027B/7 to C. in C. Med.)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Situation report 49.

C.S. 15 sailed from Alexandria in PHOEBE with Force B consisting of AJAX, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, JACKAL and JANUS to act in support of operation "EXPORTER". Force C, GLENGYLE COVENTRY ILEX and 3 Destroyers proceeding from Port Said to be off Syrian Coast tonight 7/8.
2. Western Desert. Owing to lack of fighter protection the sailing of all shipping other than Destroyers on Tobruk supply servic has been suspended temporarily.
Destroyers will continue to run supplies in at night. This decision was reached after consultation with C. in C. M.E., and A.O.C. in C. M.E.
(C. in C. Med., 2211C/7, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Persian Gulf.

Summary of situation re naval communications. (C. in C. E.I.,0636Z/7) See Lion Copy.

Iran territorial waters.

Coxswain of patrol boat was hailed alongside shore at Khoraamshahr (?this morning) and interrogated by an Iranian Officer because he was on Iranian side of river. He should not have bee there, I feel that although we should maintain right to navigate anywhere in river this right should be exercised with discretion and this case should not be allowed to become an issue of any importance between us. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1129Z/7 to Brit. Min. Teheran).
Your 1129/7. Concur, and care is to be taken to avoid any incident with Iranians.
(C. in C. E.I., 1936Z/7 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

MAURITIUS C.M.11.

Durban arrival MAURITIUS Departure MAURITIUS escorting Convoy C.M.11 E.T.A. position (I) C. in C. East Indies' 0810Z/30 2000Z/ 1219. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1615/7 to Admty etc).
Convoy Sailing Telegram C.M.11.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 1618Z/7 to Admty etc).

China.

Japanese Activity.

Naval reconnaissance has disclosed existence of one small concrete structure having appearance of magazine on Partsim Island in Lema group. Further indications of blockade tightening provided by fresh Japanese landings on small scale in the west river delta due west of Macao. Small Hong Kong launch with British flag towing junk from Macoa seized by Japanese yesterday and released after part of cargo confiscated.
(C.O.C., Hong Kong, 1631/7 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.6.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Latvian Ships etc. My 1542Q/6. American Coastal trade refers to trade on North Mole south of American Coast. (C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Z/7 to A.W.I.Stn).

REPULSE. Two corvettes on patrol one with defects. For greater security intend to proceed to sea at dark tonight returning Concepcion Bay at dawn.
(REPULSE, 1003Z/7 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.)
REPULSE should proceed to Halifax at earliest convenience. Ship will be required for special duty sailing from Halifax about 19/6.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1156B/7 to R.A.3 REPULSE).

BUXTON. REPULSE arrived Concepcion Bay 2200Z/6.
BUXTON returned to St. Johns N.F. (?0005, 1005) Z/7 with condenser defect. Estimated 48 hours to repair.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns 1200Z/7 to Admty).

WINNIPEG. (French). Your 0058B/5. 24 of crew volunteered 9 with to continue in WINNIPEG, 2 engineers 5 firemen 1 Baker. 1 cook, Remainder wish to serve Free French Force as follows, Navy 1, gunner Army 10, Air Force 4 (say they are pilots). (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1234Q/7 to D. of S.T.)

C.I.P. (French). My 2059R/4. French Tanker C.I.P. expected complete loading 300 tons bunkers 2200/6 No permit granted for cargo, destination probably Fort de France. No information yet of sailing and CARADOC informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1559R/7 to Admty etc).

Guns for M.V.'s in U.S. ports. Lease Lend Office agree that since passing of Lend Lease Act it is legal to mount guns, and Navy Dept. will look favourable on application under Lease Lend for carrying out work. Guns would presumably in first place be provided from 450 already acquired by Admty from U.S.A Navy., We advise that D.E.M.S. Officers be sent out immediately.
(Sparks, New York, to M. of W.T. T.H.I., 1644/7

/Fuelling.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.6.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Fuelling Concepcion. Admty 1001B/3. It is intended that Concepcion Bay should only be used for emergency fuelling as it is exposed to U Boat attack. An oiler will be kept in Newfoundland for this purpose. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1707B/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.,etc).

GORLESTON LANDGUARD. Intend to sail in company with independents for Clyde on 8/6. Route. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1731P/7 to Admty). My 1731P/7. Cutters not being sailed as convoy escort vessel has been requested by Colonel Summers U.S. Army for early passage U.K. with documents etc. for General Chaney's mission. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1734P/7 to Admty).

NYASA (Portuguese.) Your 1022Q/5. No special action should be taken. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1843B/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

T.C.11. Your 1643/1 and N.C.S.O. Port of Spain's 2025/3 and 0858/4. Changes in outward troop convoys from U.K. make it most undesirable for T.C.11 to arrive U.K. before 30/6. This will allow more time for your arrangements. Request you will make arrangements for sailing on 21/6. (D.O.D. (H) 1852/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). T.C.11. - Composed of BRITANNIC, STIRLING CASTLE, PASTEUR, ANDES, INDRAPOERA and WINDSOR CASTLE carrying 12741 Canadian personnel will leave Halifax on 21/6 (Speed route). Ocean escort. from Halifax to U.K. will be provided by REPULSE. C. in C. H.F. requested to arrange for A/S destroyer escort of 8 ships to fuel in Iceland and then to meet convoy in position "A" and escort to U.K. C. in C. W.A. requested to arrange for A/A cruiser to meet convoy in convenient position and to provide A/A escort for the last 48 hours, (A.C.N.S. (H) 1854/7 to R.A. 3 etc).

WARSPITE. Your ARMUK 287 of 28/5. Concur that WARSPITE be repaired on West Coast, at Bremerton Navy Yard. (V.C.N.S. 1859B/7 to B.A.R.M.)

/DIOMEDE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

DIOMEDE.	Leave Bermuda on completion of fuelling 8/6 and proceed so as to comply with Admty 1702B/7 Return to Bermuda on 14/6 unless otherwise ordered. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1912Q/7 to DIOMEDE).
SHEHERAZADE OPALIAN.	My 1232/6. U.S. have now no objection to French ships being detained except on Martinique - U.S. run. SHEHERAZADE should therefore be held and OPALIAN released. (Head of M. 2112B/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
A/S Precautions	U/Bs are likely to be encountered on your course and especially to Westward of 35° W. Full anti S/M measures should be maintained until arrival. (D.D.I.C., 2151B/7 to RESTIGOUCHE, OTTAWA, RICHMOND, RAMSEY, CHAMBLEY, ORILLIA, COLLINGWOOD).
French ARICA.	Please instruct N.O.I.C. Trinidad take recruiting measures as in my 0750/30/5 and 2119/6. (D. of S.T. 2332B/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

TABERG
BARON LOVAT
(torpedoed 6/6).

Survivors. (WELLINGTON, 1035A/7) See North Atlantic.)

TEWKESBURY
(torpedoed 21/5).

Intercepted message from American S.S. KNOXVILLE CITY indicates that she has picked up Chief Officer's Boat and 21 of crew of TEWKESBURY and that they will be landed at the Cape. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0137N/7 to Admty).

EIBERGEN
(torpedoed 3/6).

S.O.S. Two Lifeboats drifting between 49° and 50° N 20° and 25° W.
(EIBERGEN, 1218/7 C. in C. W.A., 1332B/7).
Following has been made. Addressed CAIRO repeated ZULU. Take ZULU under your orders and search in direction 140° 70 miles from 050° 36' N 022° 22' West for EIBERGEN life boat transmitting with portable set on 500 KC/S. You should instruct boat to home you. On conclusion of search proceed in company to Foyle pending other orders.
(Capt. D.4. 1300/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
EIBERGEN 1218 bearings obtained 140° approx. CAIRO, ZULU detailed to search.
(Capt. D.4. 1314 B/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
Have picked up 35 survivors from EIBERGEN in position 050° 12' N 021° 40' W. Am proceeding course 057° speed 21 knots ZULU in company.
(CAIRO, 1621B/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
Cancel the instructions in my 1846B/7. (not circulated gives instructions to join S.L.75). Proceed to Clyde with survivors.
(C. in C. W.A. 2054B/7 to CAIRO).

TREGARTHEN
(torpedoed 6/6).

Request following may be made to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. TREGARTHEN was torpedoed in 46° 17' N 36° 02' W at 2105Z/6. Request Corvettes escorting H.X.129 may be instructed to proceed to search for survivors as long as fu permits on leaving H.X. 129.
(C. in C. W.A., 1814B/7 to Admty) (A.C.N.S. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1419B/7).
If fuel permits search for survivors on route for St. John's N.F.
(C. in C. W.A., 1854B/7 to OTTAWA).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.6.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0725. At 0725 G.M.T. Italian submarine bearing 225° class 1. (F.O.C.N.A., 0845A/7).

0827. Italian U Boat bearing 233° 2nd Class from Gibraltar at 0827 G.M.T.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1003A/7).
D/F bearing indicate an Italian U Boat in vicinity 028° N 017° W. at 0827 G.M.T.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1304A/7 to N.A. Stn).

1318
1325. Bearings of U Boats from Gibraltar at 1318 B, 258/1 at 1325 B, 250/3.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1451B/7).

1329. At 1529 G.M.T. an Italian submarine bore 250° 3rd Class from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.NA., 1535A/7).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1554B/7).

1742. At 1742 G.M.T. Italian submarine bearing 260/3 from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1907/7).

2300. One Submarine bearing unknown - distance unknown, course unknown. Position 115 STV 70.
(SCOTTISH, 2300A/7 to Gib., W/T).
My 2300. A/7 enemy report doubtful.
(SCOTTISH, 2310A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

KENYA sailed from Hvalfiord at 0701 to reinforce the Denmark Strait Patrol, but was ordered at 1425to return there to fuel and then to proceed to patrol the Iceland Faroes Passage. The Denmark Strait Patrol is now to be maintained by C.S. 18, one ship being on patrol and one at Hvalfiord.

RUBIS, TUNA, TRIDENT and SOKOL are maintaining a S/M Patrol off the Bay of Biscay which SEALION is to leave for St. Catherine's after dark tonight. D/F bearings at 2151 last night indicated a German Surface Unit in about 47° N. and 16° to 17° W.

At 0800 today a photographic R/C of Brest showed SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU and PRINZ EUGEN still in their same positions there.

The British TRESILLIAN reports two small Warships in 48° 48' N. 29° 53' W. at 2005 today.

British Air Activity.

2ϕ Wellington A/C and 7 Stirlings attacked the PRINZ EUGEN at Brest last night, and, though no direct hit is claimed, many bursts were seen close to her.

Several M/V's were bombed yesterday off the Dutch coast and two are claimed as total losses

Between 0105 and 0150/8, 4 Hudsons and 4 Whitleys attacked the docks and shipping at Bergen, and a 400 ton ship was claimed among the targets hit.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

A second attack was made between 0100 and 0200 this morning upon Loch Ewe by 3 to 5 A/C apparently acting in conjunction with a raid in the Minches. One A/C was hit and another is claimed as shot down. No mines are reported to have been dropped, and no damage was done by the bombs.

One A/C which may have seen into the Fleet Anchorage, was plotted over Scapa at 0243 this morning. One battery opened fire, but the A/C was not sighted.

3 or 4 A/C, probably Focke Wulfs, attacked the Fishing Trawler FILEY in the Minches at 0230 this morning. Six Bombs were dropped and the Trawler was slightly damaged.

Mining.

One Mine was detonated by Sweeper in the Thames Estuary at 2128 last night; and promulgation of a Prohibited Area for all vessels anchoring or fishing is requested within 5 cables radius from Methil Light.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys.

North Sea Fishing.

Admty. approval is given for all-night fishing by trawlers until 31/7/41 in an area enclosed by lines Noss Head to Kinnaird Head and Clytheness to Portknockie, with suitable lighting restrictions.

4 ships carrying Service personnel, 3 for Canada and 1 for Far East, will leave the Clyde on 14/6.

North Atlantic.

SEVERN.

F.O.C.N.A. intends to sail her on 14/6 to patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea.

A/S Sweep.

3 corvettes (S.O. in JONQUIL) and 5 motor launches are to sail at 0700/9 for an A/S sweep in Western Approaches to Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Syria, Operation "Exporter".

The Allied advance into Syria began early this morning. The Palestine boarder was crossed an hour before dawn.

C. in C. Middle East reports that Operation "Exporter" made a good start.

Tyre was occupied and at 2300/8 troops were attacking Litani Bridge.

Rough sea made the landing of the S.S. Battalion from GLENGYLE impossible.

Force B supported the advance of the Army along the coast. KIMBERLEY was fired at from shore near Kahn Bridge (33.20 N., 35.17 E) and returned the fire.

2 F.A.A. fighters were shot down and one damaged, probably by French fighters, while protecting Force B. A third force- landed in the sea, and 2 others were severely damaged.

Alexandria Raid.

2 heavy air attacks with bombs and mines were made on Alexandria last night. Military damage was small, but the attack was deliberately aimed at the civilian population C. in C. Mediterranean suggests retaliatory measures against a working class district in an Italian town.

Air Transport.

C. in C. Mediterranean reports on urgent requirement for communication and transport aircraft for the Fleet Air Arm in Eastern Mediterranean, and asks for 4 such aircraft from America.

/DIDO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (contd).

DIDO. — Damaged by aircraft on 29/5, is to repair at Brooklyn Navy Yard. Meantime she will take part in Operation "Chronometer" in the Red Sea.

KELVIN. — Damaged by aircraft on 30-31/5, is to sail for Bombay for repairs.

French tanker torpedoed. — S/M TORBAY reports she has torpedoed, off the Dardanelles, the French tanker ALBERTA, routed from Naples to Constanza.

Black Sea. — S.O.I. Istanbul confirms that certain Roumanian ships are being armed by the Germans.

Malta Supplies. — Remarks of V.A. Malta on C. in C. Mediterranean's 1122/2 regarding the future of supply convoys to Malta are contained in his 1038/8. He favours the route eastward, considering that the enemy will increase his air forces in Sicily and that the danger from mines is great.

M.L's — Owing to urgent requirements in West Africa, the 104th M.L. Flotilla has been diverted there from its original allocation to the Mediterranean.

Lybia. — 7 Swordfish of 830 Sqdn., F.A.A., bombed and laid mines at Tripoli Harbour last night, all returning safely.

VOYAGER, VENDETTA and one "A" lighter unloaded Army stores by night at Tobruk.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Rescue Tugs St. Johns.

H.M. tugs RESTIVE and PRUDENT left Greenock today for the new advanced base at St. John's Newfoundland.

Raider.

A raider report from an unknown ship was intercepted by Resolution Island at 1126 G.M.T. from 44.50 N., 29.08 W.

Trinidad reports that the German raider responsible for sinking BRITANNIA on 25/3 was identified as CORDILLERA or CARIBIA by the third mate.

U-Boat Campaign.

ADDA, 7816 tons, was torpedoed early this morning about 70 miles W.N.W. of Freetown, and ELMDENE, 4853 tons, a few hours later about 200 miles W. of Freetown.

The tanker ENSIS, 6207 tons, was torpedoed this afternoon about 970 miles W. of Ushant.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Second S/M at Scapa.

Owing to unforeseen reductions in the number of ships working up and to the operational requirements of Home Fleet Destroyers a second Submarine will not be required at Scapa for the present. 2. It is hoped that this late decision will not affect your arrangements. (R.A.D. 0940B/8 to S.9).

Clyde. Request for 6 A/S Vessels.

A.M. 2225B/7/6. Recently 4 yachts and 4 A/S trawlers were withdrawn from the Clyde to join Irish sea escort forces and at the same time all AP vessels were also removed. The security of the Clyde was then maintained by the 9th M.L. Flotilla which is now to be withdrawn. I consider it essential that at least 6 A/S vessels should be supplied before the departure of the 9th M.L. Flotilla. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1201B/8).

KASTELHOLM.

My 1846/6, your 1055/7. N.O.I/C., Faroes, who was in another Island when survivors were first interviewed, has returned to Thorshaven and considers it unlikely that ship was torpedoed. Instructions given in second sentence of your message are being complied with. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1308/8 to A.C.O.S).

Sailing of M.L's for Gibraltar.

Your 2225B/7. Consider 9th M.L.F, consisting of M.L's 169, 170, 172, 173, 174, 185, 176, can be ready to sail for Gibraltar on 18th June. Suggest that M.L. 126 accompanies them to join 3rd M.L.F. and that M.L's 242, 265, 266, 272 and probably M.L. 261 be sailed at the same time. (R.A.C.F. 1330B/8 to Adty.).

/LANCE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy-Contd.

LANCE.	LANCE is urgently required in W.A. Command. Request every effort may be made to hasten completion of working up practices. (C. in C.W.A. 1448B/8 to R.A.D. H.F).
GREENWICH. HECLA.	As soon as she is ready for service about mid June GREENWICH is now required to relieve HECLA at Greenock. HECLA on relief will proceed to Iceland. (V.C.N.S. 1612B/8).
BEVERLEY and 3 Hunt Destroyers for Gibraltar.	My 1451B/8. BEVERLEY is to be sailed to R/V with C.B. 333 and then proceed Gibraltar in company with 3 Hunt Class destroyers. (C. in C.W.A. 1615B/8).
ALYNBANK.	C. in C.W.As 1312B/8. and Admiralty Letter M.07168/41. ALYNBANK should join W.As. Command as soon as CAIRO proceeds to the East Coast or CURACOA is ready for service which ever is the earlier. (D.O.D. H. 1619B/8).
W.A. Escort Groups.	Your 2241B/26 May and your 1849B/6th June. (1) Immediate allocations of minesweepers to escort groups is entirely dependent on ships available to fill requirements in very near future. (2) Intend following temporary allocations which I would like adjusted gradually so as to conform M/S Flotilla organisation. Details. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1627B/8).

/AVONDALE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy-Contd.

AVONDALE.
FARNDALE.
ERIDGE.
WINDSOR.
VIMY.
BEVERLEY
for
Gibraltar.

A.M. 1206B/1. Delete reference to BEVERLEY and VIMY.
2. A.M. 1916B/7. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail AVONDALE, FARNDALE, and ERIDGE to Gibraltar as soon as they are ready, using them to escort any convenient convoy.
3. When ready WINDSOR, VIMY and BEVERLEY should be sailed to a Western port as directed by C. in C.W.A., whence they should be sailed to Gibraltar. (D.O;D.H. 1724B/8).

CAPE PALLISER.

Your 1510B/8 and Admiralty 1911B/22/5. CAPE PALLISER is to be fitted out for service on the Northern Patrol. (D.O.D.H. 2050B/8).

MAPLIN.
SPRINGBANK.
ARIGUANI.

MAPLIN, SPRINGBANK, and ARIGUANI are to be administered by F.O.I.C. Belfast. (C. in C.W.A. 2358/8).

Movements.

PANDORA.

Intend to sail PANDORA from Dartmouth at 2000B/10 for Portsmouth New Hampshire routed as follows.
PANDORA will dive by day as far as position (c) thence on surface at C.O's discretion. (Capt. S.5. 1101B/8).

SEALION.

SEALION leaves patrol after dark June 8th probably proceeding on surface to position 048° 06' N. 006° 34' W. thence to R/V 180° St. Catherine's 5 miles at 0500B/12. Route. (Capt. S.5 1203B/8).

/FURIOUS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.- Contd.

FURIOUS. ARGUS. NEA HELLAS.	FURIOUS returning from Gibraltar requires to be met by A/S escort daylight 13th June. 2. Owing to numerous other commitments normal arrangements cannot be made, and it would be appreciated if you could supply this escort. (D.O.D.H. 1312B/8 to C. in C. H.F). Cancel my 1312B/8. FURIOUS is now accompanying ARGUS to the U.K. and C. in C. W.A. is making arrangements to afford the necessary A/S escort for this force. 2. To do this, however, C. in C. W.A. is able to provide two destroyers only for A/S escort ordered in A.M. 1746B/8, and it is requested, therefore, that you will provide destroyers to make the numbers for this convoy up to five. (A.C.N.S.H. 1859B/8 to C. in C. H.F). VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA are to be sailed to provide additional escort for ARGUS, FURIOUS, and NEA HELLAS. If fuel does not permit their sailing in company with Capt. D.4 they should be sailed as convenient to R/V ordered in my 1020B/8. (C. in C.W.A. 1924B/8).
AURANIA.	AURANIA returned. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1415/8).
Fleet Tender A.	My 1825/7. Fleet Tender 'A' is to sail from Methil to Tyne in F.S. 11 and 1330/9th. Ship is disguised as 'R' class battleship and has mercantile runner crew. (C. in C. Rosyth 1631/8).
Clyde-Iceland Ferry.	Arrived D.S.5. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2230/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Denmark Straits Patrol.

Sailed KENYA. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0701/8).

Intend to proceed in accordance with your 1212B/6th on completion of exercise at about 1530B/9th passing through position 000° Cape Wrath 7 thence direct. Speed of advance 18 knots. Request air escort may be arranged. Expect to arrive Hval Fiord 0600B/Wednesday. (MANCHESTER 0841B/8 to C. in C. H.F).

Interception of Enemy Supply Ship.

After dark to-day submarines proceed to following patrol positions.
TRIDENT 46° 04' N. 09° 13' W.
SOKOL. 46° 38' N. 09° 42' W. (F.O.S. 1209/B)

KENYA to patrol Iceland-Faroes Passage.
HERMIONE
EDINBURGH.
Denmark Straits Patrol.

KENYA is to return to Hvalfjord, refuel and proceed in accordance with my 1851B/6th para. 1 (one).
(ii) HERMIONE and EDINBURGH are to comply F.O.C. 18th C.S. 0728B/3rd and my 1212B/6th, para 2. (C. in C. H.F. 1425B/8).
H.M.S. KENYA arrived. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2131/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

PRINZ EUGEN. bombed. M/V's attacked and two claimed sunk.

Day 7/6. One aircraft attacked a 5000 ton M/V in a convoy of eight ships East of Ijmuiden scoring two direct hits with 2 x 250 -lb. bombs. A second aircraft attacked a 6,000 ton M/V in the same convoy also scoring two direct hits with 2 x 250 lb. bombs. Both these vessels are claimed as total losses. Three aircraft attacked a 2,000 ton M/V accompanied by a patrol vessel four miles South of Farsund with bombs and machine gun fire, near misses being observed. One aircraft bombed a M/V of 1000 tons in a convoy nine miles North of Westerschelling, but bombs fell 20 yards ahead of the ship. Another aircraft attacked a 3,000 ton salvage vessel 5 miles N. of Westerschelling two bombs fell short, one alongside the salvage vessel, and the fourth bomb fell on the vessel itself or alongside. Night 7/8 June. 30 Wellingtons and 7 Stirlings attacked cruiser PRINCE EUGEN at Brest. No direct hit claimed but many bursts seen. (H.Q.B.C. 1337/8).

Patrols.

Patrol STAND now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1420/8).
SLEEVE not being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1905/8).

Ship and A/C, W/T communication.

Normally, Home Fleet ships within 40 miles of the coast of the U.K. may use R/T to communicate with escorting A/C so fitted. Advantage of this relaxation is to be taken to practice communication.
2. Outside this distance or if proceeding on a special operation R/T is only to be used in an emergency but the necessary R/T (or W/T watch is to be maintained when aircraft are in company, and as laid down in H.W.C.O's. If, however Air attack is expected R/T Communication should be tested as soon as aircraft arrive.
3. In all cases the Onus of breaking W/T silence rests with the ships and the aircraf will only transmit if called or in emergency
4. See H.W.C.O. Section L.V. and H.W.C.O. 53 (late 13). (C. in C. H.F. 1543/8).
Your 1251/7. Please see My 1543/5 which it is hoped meets Aircraft requirements. (C. in C. H.F. 1859B/8 to C. in C.W.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C over Scapa.

One aircraft probably hostile passed over Flow at 0243 to-day Sunday. Aircraft was not sighted and was plotted on one G.L. set only. Height 3000 feet. One battery opened fire. Cloud base about 3000 feet. A/C may have seen into fleet anchorage. (A.C.O.S. 0409B/8).

Loch Ewe.

Air Raid carried out on Loch Ewe between 0100 and 0200. No damage. One slight casualty. Raid appeared to be carried out by three to five machines in conjunction with raid in Minches. No mines reported and Approaches have been swept. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0947B/8).
A.M. 8th One aeroplane was definitely hit but not seen to crash and inflated dinghy has been recovered out at sea belonging to a Dornier 18. GIv 854. Search is being made for crew over a large area. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1251B/8).
Air attacks were made on Loch Ewe on mornings of 7th and 8th between 0100 and 0200 first attack was spasmodic and probably by passing aircraft. Second attack was planed and resolutely carried out. Slight damage by near miss on ETHIOPIAN during 1st attack. No damage second attack one slight casualty from bomb splinter on Merchant Seaman. One plane claimed brought down and another definitely damaged. Confirmation of plane brought down not definite. Plane seen going out to sea in difficulties. Rubber dinghy fully inflated has been recovered. Search is being made. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1327B/8).

/ESBJORN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.-Contd.

ESBJORN. (Finnish, 1905 Tons) My 1338/8. Was unsuccessfully attacked by one Heinkel Aircraft when entering Nolso Fiord at 1610/8. No casualties or damage from one bomb dropped, and aircraft flew east when escorting Trawler opened fire. (N.O.I.C. -Faroes 1343B/8).

FILEY. (Fishing Trawler). Reported on arrival Oban today that he was attacked, by enemy aircraft, probably Focke Wulf in 57° 07' N. 06° 50' W. approx. at 0230/8. Three or four aircraft were operating. Six bombs dropped. Vessel sustained slight damage. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1815/8).

Mining.

Thames Estuary. Following received from Commodore Sheerness. Begins. Disturbance in the mud possibly indicating the presence of a mine located in 049° 4.3 cables Queensborough Spit Beacon uncovered at low water. Request mine disposal party be sent to arrive Sheerness 1800 today. 0843B/8. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 0933B/8).

One Mine detonated at 2128/7 by S.A. Gear as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1040B/8).

Operation S.N. 64. Your 0846B/7. Concur. (C. in C.H.F. 1123B/7 to R.A.M.)
Your 0846/7. Concur. (D.O.D.H. 1316B/8 to R.A.M).

/Methil.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.6.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.-Contd.

Methil Prohibited Area.	Request following area may be promulgated as a prohibited area for all vessels, for anchoring and fishing. Within a circle of radius 5 cables from Methil Light. Compulsory pilotage has been established for all H.M. Ships, Auxiliary and merchant vessels (other than local craft) entering Methil Docks. (C. in C. Rosyth 1701/8).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Surface Unit.	D/F bearings at 2151Z/7 indicate German surface unit in approximately 47° N. 16° - 17° W. (D.D.I.C. 0138B/8) (F.O.S. 0212B/8).
Brest.	Preliminary interpretation of photographic R/C of Brest shows SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and PRINZ EUGEN in same positions at 0800/8. (D.D.I.C. 1109B/8).
Atlantic. 2 small Warships.	RRRR. TRESILLIAN position 48° 48' N. 29° 53' W. Two small warships. (Valentia Radio 2005/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

Convoy W.N. Odd.

S.O.S. Odd numbered WN convoy position Rudhre 085° 9 miles 0205/8 de GUB. (Port Patrick 0023/8).

Received at 2227 G.M.T. from Malin Head. At 2218 heard unknown station ashore West side Ailsa Craig. Send tug West side Ailsa Craig. (Port Patrick Radio 0031/8).

ELSE RYKENS.

My 1603/27. Completion of H.M.T. ELSE RYKENS delayed due to boiler defect. (F.O.I.C London 1145/8).

Shipping and Convoys.

Night Fishing.

Admty. approval is given for all night fishing by trawlers until 31/7/1941 in area enclosed by Lines Noss Head to Kinnaird Head and Clytheness to Portknockie provided that working lights are reduced to a minimum etc. Trawlers on passage to and from fishing grounds will be controlled by N.C.S.O. Aberdeen. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1140/8).

Personnel Ships REVENGE.

Following ships carrying personnel will leave Clyde on 14/6. CALIFORNIA for Halifax. BULOLO for Halifax, afterwards proceeding for refit at Baltimore. MENDOZA for Montreal. ULYSSES for the Far East. C. in C. W.A. requested to provide A/S escort as far as destroyers endurance permits and sail ships. CALIFORNIA BULOLO and MENDOZA will then proceed in company to R/V with REVENGE on 19/6 for onward escort to Canada. When A/S escort leaves ULYSSES will proceed independently. (D.O.D.(H) 1746B/8 to C. in C.W.A. F.O.C.N.P., etc.).

/Search....

MOST SECRET.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.-Contd.

Search Ports.

Following amendments are to be made in A.M. 1709B/18/5. (Search ports for vessels arriving in U.K). (D. of L.D. 1806B/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

NEPTUNE. Admty 1910/B/6. On parting company with VICTORIOUS proceed Gibraltar through position 034° 00' N 010° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0956A/8 NEPTUNE.)

SEVERN. SEVERN arrived Gibraltar 7/6. Intend to sail her for patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea 14th unless otherwise ordered. Your 1244C/26 refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1010A/8 to C. in C. Med).

FURIOUS SHEFFIELD. S.O. Force H 2220/7 and 2221/7. Assuming transfer is completed by 1300B/9 in approx. position 037° 05' N 013° 48' W it is anticipated that FURIOUS and SHEFFIELD can reach position 047° 00' 024° 00' at 1200/B/11 having passed through position 038° 00' 017° 00' 043° 00' 023° 00'. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange A/S escort for FURIOUS accordingly unless further instructions are received from S.O. Force H. (F.O.C.N.A., 1214/8 to Admty, C. in C. W.A.)

Corvettes. ARMERIA, BURDOCK and Norwegian Ship BALPAREIL left Ponta Delgada 1500 G.M.T./8. (N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada, 1600/8 to S.O.(I) Gib).

A/S Sweep. Following sail at 0700/9 to carry out anti-submarine sweep in Western Approaches to Gibraltar. Group 1. JONQUIL S.O.,GERANIUM AZALEA. Group 2. M.L. Nos. 130 129, 132, 134, 135. Group 2 will work independently about 30 miles South of Group 1 throughout the operation. (F.O.C.N.A., 1730A/8 to NEPTUNE, ST. DAY, Trawlers of W.P.)

Enemy Unit. At 1935B bearing 260° third class from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1851A/8 to N.A. Stn).

TIRPITZ (German). Left Malaga 7/6. (F.O.C.N.A., 1932/8 to REGENT O.24).

/Force H.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.6.1941
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Force H, SHEFFIELD FURIOUS.

Hoped you can comply with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1214/8 (N.T. in W.D.) as it may otherwise be necessary to delay FURIOUS.
If SHEFFIELD and FURIOUS proceed as proposed request you will direct SHEFFIELD (route for patrol and return to Gibraltar).
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2344B/8 to F.O. Force H).

South Atlantic.

Bathurst Precautions.

Your 1530/7 and my 1823/7.
If Oiler is to be permanently taken from Bathurst or always liable to be removed at short notice propose other oil lighters be taken there as early as possible.
(C. in C. S.A. 1135N/8 to Admty).

Hurricanes Freetown.

Your 1949N/7. Air Ministry arranging for 4 Hurricanes to be flown from Takoradi to Freetown. (V.C.N.S. 1314B/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

W.S. 8 X.

Admty 1823/31/5. Comprises following. (List , contents, fuel required etc).
(D.O.D. (F) 1451B/8 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

ARAWA S.L. 77.

Departure 1600/8 ARAWA as ocean escort to convoy S.L.77. Local escort SURPRISE until dusk/13 MARGUERITE and GARDENIA until dusk /15 then return Freetown.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1721N/8 to Admty).

SHROPSHIRE CARNARVON CASTLE, PRETORIA CASTLE.

My 1257N/4 and my 2133/6 SHROPSHIRE proceed Freetown passing through J 36 D and C J 35 B thence to Freetown adjusting speed to arrive p.m./14. CARNAVARON CASTLE proceed through K.36 B and A arriving centre (?of) K 36 (?B) about 1200/10 K.35 B and A thence to L 32 or as ordered by R.A.S.A.D. PRETORIA CASTLE patrol in K I A .
(C. in C. S.A., 2147N/8 to Ships named.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

REGELE CAROL I) DACIA) ROMANIA)	Roumanian. Ungraded report states fitting out as armed merchant cruisers. (D.S. 642 8/6).
TRANSILVANIA.	Roumanian. Is being fitted out with paravanes. (D.S. 642 8/6).
KELVIN.	Your 1940/8. KELVIN should be sailed to Bombay for repairs. (D.O.D. (F) 0002B/8 to C. in C. Med).
ALBERTA (French).	French tanker ALBERTA torpedoed off Dardanelles routed Naples, Messina, Corinth Canal, Doro Channel, Constanza. Known facts. (TORBAY, 0255C/8 to Capt. S.1.) See also 1140/8.
TORBAY.	Leave Patrol p.m./10 keep east of 25° 00' and east Amorgo, West of Stampalia, thence through Kaso Strait direct to arrive Sanctuary Alexandria 0500C/15. TETRARCH pass through Doro Channel northbound 12th for Area B. (Capt. S.1. 0901C/8 to TORBAY.)
Malta Supply Convoys.	Remarks on C. in C. Med's 1122C/2 and S.O. Force H, 1137/4. (V.A. Malta, 1038B/8 to C. in C. Med). See Mediterranean Volume.
M.E. Intelligence.	Your message 1749/7. Following made to Middle East Intelligence Centre passed to you for information. Appears some information received by you from Syria as regards Naval matters is very inaccurate and you may wish to check your sources. (example) Should interception of ships be considered desirable it is preferable that proposal should be put forward direct by C. in C. M.E. to C, in C. Med. and not via M.G.O. (I) Alexandria. T.O.O. 1129C/7. (ends.) (C. in C. Med., 1032C/8 to Ambassador, Cairo).

/Transport.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Transport Aircraft.

Urgent requirement for communication and transport aircraft for Fleet Air Arm in Eastern Med. R.A.F. are seldom able provide these aircraft. Request immediate consideration to supply direct from America of four aircraft I.E. 2, A.R.2, each capable of taking 12 men or 1 ton of stores.
(C. in C. Med., 1102C/8 to Adty).

Benghazi and Derna bombed.

Operational Summary No. 363.
Western Desert. Night 6/7 - 6 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi, starting large persistent fires. 4 Wellingtons bombed Derna, starting fires on Satellite landing ground and destroying unspecified number enemy aircraft. Further bombs on four barrack blocks starting a fire.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1107/8).

DIDO.

Have instructed that DIDO is to repair at (? Brooklyn) Navy Yard. Summary of major defects including action damages should be signalled to N.A. Washington for B.A.R.M.
(C. in C. Med., 1110C/8 to DIDO).

Italian (?) Ship Chanak.

My 1819/6 Chanak report states ship now abandoned. 6 crew killed 23 landed Chanak. She was proceeding to Constanza from Salonica.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1140/8 to S.O.(I) Med).
May be ALBERTA, (see 0255/8).

REGENT.

Orders.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1228B/8 to REGENT).

FORMIDABLE.

Your 0003/27. Request details of damage to FORMIDABLE and estimate of serviceability.
(V.C.N.S. 1302B/8 to C. in C. Med).

M.L.'s

Regret that owing to urgent requirements in West Africa, necessary to divert 104th M.L. Flotilla which was about to be freighted to Mediterranean. Two 72 ft. M.L.'s complete 101st and 102nd Flotillas will be ready for shipment shortly. Hoped to make additional M.L.s available later.
(D. of L.D. 1344B/8 to C. in C. Med).

/Alexandria.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Alexandria Air Raid.

2 heavy air attacks by German planes on Alexandria last night 7/8. Military damage was small but there is no question deliberate attack was made on civil population. If feasible I suggest retaliatory measures should be taken against a working class district in an Italian town, Italians being told it is retaliation for attack on the civil population of Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 13540/8 to Admty) Reply: 0117/10, See Mediterranean, Volume.

Roumanian Ships, Dardanelles.

My 1119/7. Reports that these ships being armed now graded A.1. Armament reported by B sources - in case of REGELE CAROL and DACIA - two 4" mounted on bow and stern and torpedo tubes. What requires confirmation are reports that both ships also being fitted as minelayers, and use them and ROMANIA intended in Aegean. If latter confirmed, presumably Germans will try to engineer them through Straits with armament disguised under cover of recent and repeated announcements S M R are resuming their service to Greek Ports.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1531/8 to S.O.(I) Med).
N.I.D. Comment.
REGELE CAROL (2369 tons) and DACIA (3418 tons) have been running a regular passenger and mail service between Constanza and Istanbul, In addition it is believed that ROMANIA is being fitted out as an armed merchant cruiser.
Enemy ships passing through the Dardanelles have been declaring their cargo as "general," but information available indicates that they have also been carrying war material. In view of the present attitude of Turkish Govt. toward Germany, the examination of Axis cargoes passing through the Dardanelles is probably very perfunctory. Even armed merchant ships using a small amount of camouflage, should be able to pass S.M.R. = Societe Maritime de Roumanie.

/ TIRPITZ.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

TIRPITZ.	2300/7 approximate time of departure. (Consul, Malaga, 1540/8 to Admty). Has been at Malaga since 29/8/39 where she took refuge on way home from Japan. (D.S. 643 9/6).
SALZBURG German. G. GHIRARDI Italian.	Passed Istanbul 1600 Turkish time 8/6 for Aegean Sea. Entered Bosphorus Expected to pass Istanbul 1900. Also for Aegean Sea. (N.A. Ankara, 1543/8).
Alexandria Raids.	Air raids 2200 to 0130/8 parachute C type mines. 7 in harbour and about 10 in city and warehouses which blew down large groups of houses causing casualties which cannot yet be estimated. 0130 to 0500 shallow dive bombers wich burnt one Greek merchant vessel and R.A.F. petrol dump and caused further damage to houses. People leaving the city by train and road. A few casualties to British Naval and Military ratings on leave not yet numbered. Egyptian A/A gunners 22 killed 21 injured. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria., 1650C/8 to C. in C. Med).
Malta Air Raid.	Up to 1600 hours 8/6. Night 7 /8. Target aerodromes. No damage. Day 8/6. Enemy fighter Patrol came to within 10 miles of Island and receded. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1706/8).
Tripoli bombed and mined.	Night 7/8 7 Swordfish 830 Sqdn F.A.A. despatched Tripoli Harbour to carry out cucumber laying and bombing. Latter as diversion. Cucumbers dropped in following positions from end of Karamanli mole, 7¼ cables 041° 2¼ cables, 058° 8¼ cables 034° 6 cables 044° 2 500 lbs bombs plus 6 250 lbs were dropped on target west end harbour. Several large fires started. Cucumber aircraft encountered no opposition. All our aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1707/8).

/Italian unit.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Italian Unit.

By D.F. bearings position of Italian ship or S/M call signs 9 D.K. were as follows:
1248/7 G.M.T. 10 miles E Cape Malea, 0820/8 G.M.T. 150 miles S. W Sapienza.
(Capt. O.S. Alexandria 1729C/8 to C. in C. Med etc).

Suez Canal Minesweeping.

Reply to C. in C. Med., 1947/3. (D.M.S., approved 1st S.L., 2141B/8 to C. in C. Med).
See Lion Copy.

SALZBURG. German.

Entered Bosphorus for ?Constanza 1500C/8 speed 9 knots. (Capt. S.1. 2349C/8 to TORBAY).

Advance into Syria.

Syria Operation "Exporter "

(Telephoned from War Office to M.I.D. at 2305/8/6). Operation "Exporter" reported to have gone well at the start. Unconfirmed reports state 5th Indian Infantry Bde. at Deraa and 25th Australian Bde. at Merdjayoun, 21st Australian Bde. have occupied Ras Hal Naqera. Rough sea made landing of S.S. Battalion impossible.
(C. in C. M.E., no T.O.O./8).
Your 0742 (M.T. in W.D.) No report of progress on coast road yet available. Request information if possible whether any motor transports are or have been seen north between Iskanderune and Tyre. Road blocked suspected but not confirmed.
(M.L.O. Palestine, 0935/8 to C.S.15).

F.A.A. Actions.

To-day's F.A.A. actions as follows P.M.
Following received.
1 Fulmar forced landing in sea.
2 shot down by French fighters. 2 shot up by French fighters, 1 completely unserviceable 1 temporarily unserviceable.
3 experienced Fulmars will operate from Haifa to-morrow morning with Hurricanes. Skua at Lydda on landing. Details follow to R.A.A. Originators number A. 888, 8/6.
(H.Q. Palestine Cmd., 1930/8 to R.A. (A))

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Advance into Syria. (contd).

Situation Report No. 50.

Syria. My 1829/7. Landing of S.S. troops from GLENGYLE on coast of Syria cancelled owing to weather, further attempt will be made tonight 8th/9th. Force B supporting advance of army along coast. KIMBERLEY fired at from shore near Kahn Bridge (35° 20' N 35° 17' E) and returned fire. 2 fighters shot down and one damaged, probably by French fighters whilst protecting force B.
Alexandria. Two heavy air raids night causing insignificant military damage. Mines dropped inside harbour of which two have been exploded by sweepers. Bombs fell mainly on town causing considerable damage and casualties. Italian recco. machine shot down by fighters this afternoon Sunday in Western Desert.
Tobruk. Petrol dump burnt out by incendiary bomb. VOYAGER, VENDETTA, and one A lighter unloaded Army Stores by night.
(C. in C. Med., 2230/8 to Admty).

Situation 2230.

Tyre in our hands and troops attacking Litani Bridge at 2300/8. Road at Iskanderoun now passable for transport. Naval bombardment may be required in vicinity of position 33.21 N 35.15.5 W tomorrow. (?estimate) advance approx. 20 miles.
(N.L.O. Palestine 2307C/8 to C. in C. Med).

East Indies.

SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA.

Admty 0041/5. Doing useful work in Red Sea particularly in connection with blockade measures against French Somaliland. Would regret her withdrawal from Red Sea Force. Proposals. (C. in C. E.I., 0506Z/8 to Admty etc)

W.S. 8 A.

Now expected to arrive Suez 13/6.
(C. in C. E.I., 0734Z/8 to S.B.N.O. Suez).

/KANIMBLA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

KANIMBLA. — Left Bombay 0940Z, escorting B.P. 6. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0941Z/8 to Admty etc).

Sudan. — Operational Summary No. 363 up to 1200 hours 8/6. 7/6 2 Wellesleys bombed Debrak Tabor obtaining hits on buildings. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1108/8 to Air Ministry etc).

DIDO. — Taking part in Op. "CHRONOMETER" 10/6. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1828Z/8 to Admty etc).

Iraq Air Strength. — Reports from Iraq and Middle East throw grave doubts on reliability Iraq Army and stability of new Government. In view of decision of C.O.S. not to allow return of India's squadrons from Far East, request definite (allotment) some air forces to be at disposal of Force Commander Iraq. Absence of air support for Iraq Force in emergency likely to have serious repercussions in India. (C. in C. India 2045/8 to W.O.)

China.

MUNSTERLAND (German). — Left Yokohama 6/6. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0456Z/8 to Admty etc).

Indo-China. — Assurances required from Decoux on rubber. question. (C. in C. China 1652B/8 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B Reports.	At 1500/7 Zone 5 Time hydrophone contact with submerged U/B reported by Task Force 2 in position 32° 35' N 29° 30' W. C.N.S. Ottawa informed. (A.L.U.S.N.A., 0355/8 to Admty. See also U-Boat Campaign.)
Crews ex German and Italian Ships.	My 1013R/22/5. All are on board U.S. Army Transport CHATEAU THIERRY sailed Colon 5/6 for New York. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1054R/8 to Admty).
Enemy ship Transfers.	Request ruling as to whether recent transfer of 12 German and Italian ships to Mexican Govt. is recognised by British Govt. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1114Q/8 to Admty).
C.I.P. (French).	My 1559R/7 Ship still at St. Thomas 1700/7. Endeavouring to obtain permission to load cargo. CARADOC informed. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1146R/8 to Adty etc). Your 1616/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. only. (S.O.(I) Kingston states that French tanker C.I.P. was expected to sail at 2200/6 probably for Fort de France, no permit having been granted for cargo. Request confirmation that interception is considered undesirable. (Head of M. 2330B/8 to N.A. Washington).
SHEHERAZADE (French).	My 1751Q/25. Following Free French volunteers obtained for SHEHERAZADE from personnel proceeding U.K. in S.S. RIMUTAKA. Expect to obtain approx. half necessary crew by 15/6. 1223Q/8.
REPULSE.	Your 1156B/7. REPULSE left Concepcion Bay 2330Z/7. (N.O.I.C. St. John's 1323Z/8 to Admty).
Raider Report.	Following from Resolution Island begins:- 1126 G.M.T. RRRR 44.50 N 29.08 W attacked by small vessel (ends). (Ottawa, 1354Z/8 to Admty).

/NYASSA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.6.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (contd).

NYASSA (German passengers.) — Intercepted letter from Ceroannkanschel Lisbon states sailing of Portuguese ship NYASSA was held up until 3/6 waiting for 200 German passengers.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1509Q/8 to Admty).

German raider identity. — Trinidad reports German raider responsible sinking Br. BRITANNIA 25/3 identified as CORDILLERA or CARIBIA by third mate.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1658R/8 to Admty).

A/C attacks on H.S.VITA. — A.T.1454/29/4. (Requesting details of bombing attack on VITA): H.M.H.S. VITA one deliberate attack at Tobruk at 1726/14/4. 8 Machines, ship damaged, no casualties 430 patients disembarked. Ship under way in Searched Channel led by SOUTHERN ISLE. Second deliberate attack at 2000/21/4 by one machine during evening air raid on Tobruk. Ship under way in tow of two tugs. Third, at sea afternoon 22/4 ship in tow of two tugs. 3 deliberate attacks by 2 Heinkels from 5000 feet. Slight damage. Weather clear and sunny. Ship wearing red cross markings 1 on Foredeck 2 on forward awnings 2 on afterdeck 10 on life rafts on foredeck 12 on life rafts on afterdeck.
(R.A. Alexandria, 2010/8 to Admty).

NYASA (Portuguese). — Your 1022Q/5. Contact has been made with owners and Master and latter may receive instructions to proceed voluntarily to Bermuda. If vessel is intercepted making for Bermuda she should be allowed to proceed.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2206B/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

RESTIVE PRUDENT. — Sailed H.M. Tugs RESTIVE, PRUDENT in accordance with my 1201B/6.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2350/8 to N.O.I.C. Newfoundland).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

CAGOU
(French.)

The following is an extract from a Fairmiss telegram from Port Kembla. Arrived.
(Port Kembla, 2355Z/8 to M. of W.T.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

TREGARTHEN (torpedoed 6/6).

TREGARTHEN was torpedoed in 046° 17' N 036° 02' W at 2105Z/6. Proceed to search for survivors as long as fuel permits.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 0108Z/8 to CHAMBLY. ORILLIA, COLLINGWOOD).

ADDA.

Following has been read. 3333 8.30 N 14.39 W. ADDA torpedoed 0245 G.M.T.
(Freetown W/T T.O.R.0206N/8).
British, 7816 tons, ex Convoy O.B.323, Liverpool to Freetown and Lagos (D.3. 642).
ADDA torpedoed in 8.30 N., 14.39 W. at 0245 G.M.T. 411 survivors landed at Freetown. 7 missing.
(C. in C. S.A., 2306N/8 to Admty).

INVERSUIR (torpedoed 2/6).

Your 1130B/5 nothing found. My position is (?049°) 37' 024° 15'.
(MALVERNIAN, 0600B/8 to V.A.N.P.)

ELMDENE

Following has been read.
3333 Position 8.47N 16.37 W. ELMDENE torpedoed (Freetown W/T T.O.R., 1320/8) British 4853 tons ex O.B.324. U.K. to Freetown. (D.O.R.9/6).

ENSIS.

Following has been read. 3333 ENSIS Torpedoed 48.46N 29.14 W.
(Liverpool, 1335/8) British 6207 tons, London to Curacao in ballast (D.3. 643).
Proceed to assistance of ENSIS torpedoed in 048° 46' N 029° 14' W at 1335Z/8. Report any developments and situation after 24 hours in area.
(C. in C. W.A., 1625B/8 to MIGNONETTE).
If in the vicinity and if fuel permits proceed to the assistance of ENSIS torpedoed in 58° 56' N 29° 14' W at 1335Z/8.
(C. in C. W.A., 2224B/8 to OTTAWA, RICHMOND).

JOHN P. PEDERSEN. (torpedoed 20/5).

My 2231/27/5 and My 1712/7 Reliable information that 1 life boat containing 12 survivors and 5 bodies from JOHN P. PEDERSEN 6126 tons was in approx. position (?059°) N 040° W on 1/6. No information here indicated these survivors have been picked up.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1710/8 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0041 — German U/Boat at 0041 G.M.T. bearing 240 3rd class from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 0137A/8 to N.A. Stn).

2000/7. — Admty Message AF position 32° 35' N 29° 30' W. at 2000/7 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0335/8).

2000 — U.S.A. Task Force 2 reports Hydrophone contact with submerged submarine in position 32° 35' N 29° 30' W at 2000/7. G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0535B/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0013. — D/F bearings indicate position of U/Boat within 50 miles of 7° 30' N. 31° W. at 00132/8. (D.D.I.C. 0727B/8 to C. in C. S.A., LONDON).

0245. — -Broadcast on receipt and repeat at routine times for 24 hours. Admty message A.F. position 8.30N 14.39 W. 0245/8; (C. in C. S.A. 0908/8 to Rugby W/T Stn)

U.37 past positions. — Request information whether U. 37 is likely to have been in Freetown area on April 27th and Eastward of Rio de Janeiro during the first week of May. (C. in C. S.A., 1011N/8 to Admty). Reply: 1113/10.

1200 — 9th M/S Flotilla hunting U Boat sighted in position 050° 30' N 003° 01' W at 1200/8. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1334/8 to Admty etc). My 2312/7 NOMINAL and 1 destroyer now hunting U Boat vicinity 50° 30' N 03° 01' W. (C. in C. Plymouth 1436/8 to H.Q. F.C.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1441B/8)

1548. — At 1548 B Italian U Boat bearing 2500 class 3 from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1517/8 to N.A. Stn).

/Trondheim.....

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported (contd).

Trondheim. My 1751B/5. U. Boats are reported to have left Trondheim at 1700/3. (Graded B.2.) (D.D.I.C. 1548B/8).

1900. Aircraft report submarine position 036° 21' N 011° 5D' W at 1900B/8. (F.O.C.N.A., 1926A/8 to N.A. Stn).

Submarines Attacked.

By ALOUETTE. Am attacking contact with depth charges position 233 P C L 30. (ALOUETTE, 1445A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.) My 1445A/8. Have lost contact after 2 attacks Continuing to search area. (ALOUETTE, 1628A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C. Aircraft has attacked submarine in position 035° 50' N 013° 00' W at 1715B. (F.O.C.N.A., 1911B/8 to N.A. Stn). See also 1700/9. My 1911B/8. The only and correct sighting report of U Boat by aircraft is as in my 1926A /8. (F.O.C.N.A., 2157A/8 to N.A. Stn).

Admiralty War Diaries

9-4-41 to 30-6-41 cont'd

on Reel K-11-B

ENDING OF

REEL K-10-B

DOCUMENTS . PHOTOGRAPHED

Admiralty War Diaries
9-4-41 to 30-6-41 cont'd
from Reel K-9-B
9-4-41 to 30.6-41 cont'd on Reel K-11-B

ONI

DATE: 16 April 1946

MACH. NO. 475

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: Dan Cunningham